2019 KENTUCKY BASKETBALL POSTSEASON GUIDE

HEAD COACH
JOHN CALIPARI

LEADING A PLAYERS-FIRST PROGRAM

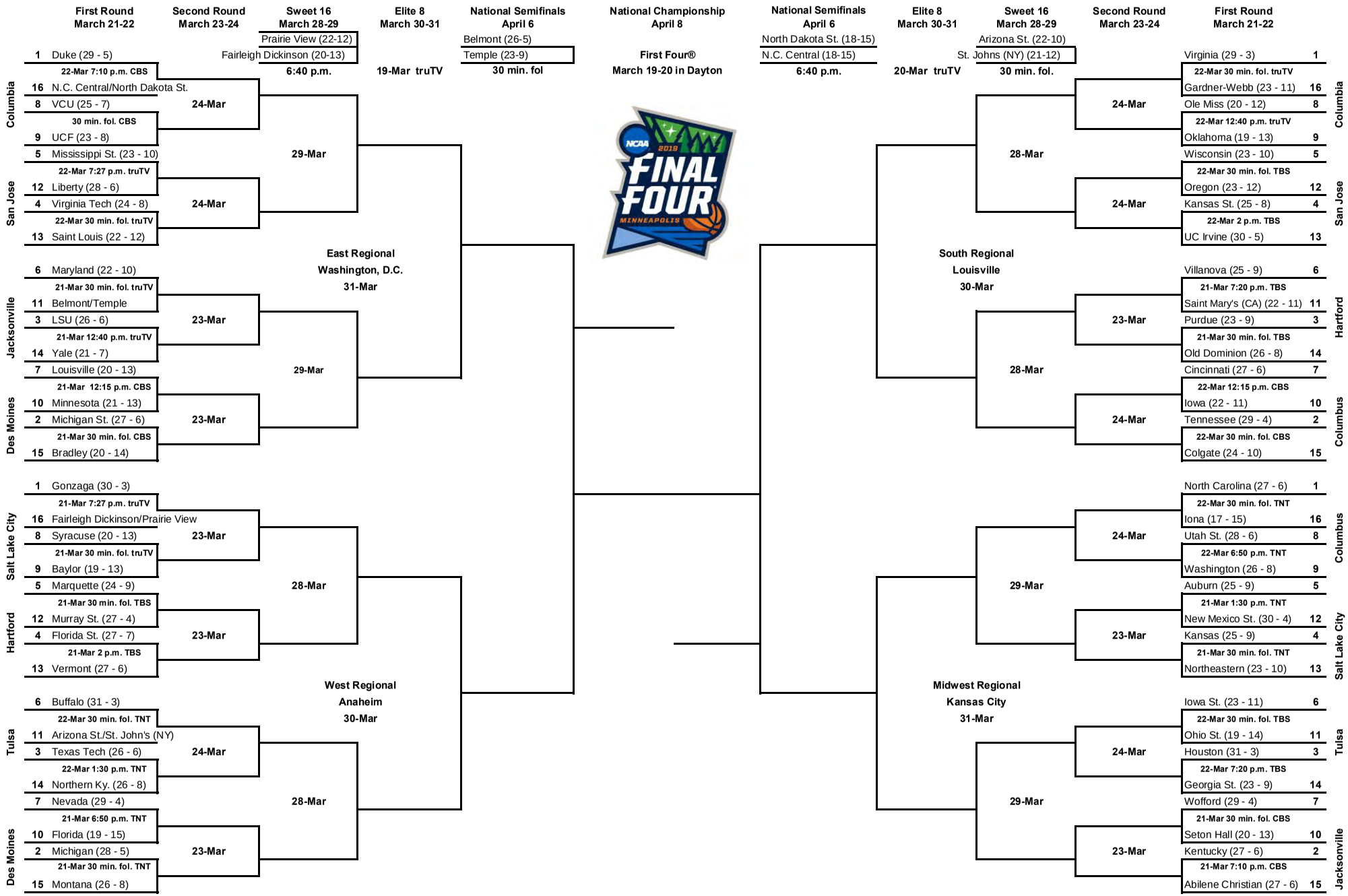
- SIX FINAL FOURS, FOUR AT UK
- 2012 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
- 2015 NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME
- FOURTH-FASTEST COACH IN NCAA DIVISION HISTORY TO 300 WINS AT THE SAME SCHOOL
- SECOND IN SCHOOL HISTORY IN WINS
- FIRST NCAA DIVISION I COACH WITH AT LEAST FIVE REGULAR-SEASON CONFERENCE TITLES AT THREE DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
- 46 CAREER NBA DRAFT PICKS, INCLUDING 35 AT KENTUCKY
- NCAA RECORD 38 WINS (2012 & 2015)
- 25 CONSECUTIVE 20-WIN SEASONS, THE LONGEST ACTIVE STREAK IN THE COUNTRY

2019 NCAA TOURNAMENT

First & Second Rounds • Jacksonville, Fla.

March 21-24, 2019

2019 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship



First- and second-round sites for March 21 and 23 include Des Moines, Hartford, Jacksonville and Salt Lake City. First- and second-round sites for March 22 and 24 include Columbia, Columbus, San Jose and Tulsa. Regional sites for March 28 and 30 are Anaheim and Louisville. Regional sites for March 29 and 31 are Kansas City and Washington, D.C.

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KENTUCKY®

2018-19 MEN'S BASKETBALL

8 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | **MOST WINS** IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL | **48** SEC TITLES | **31** SEC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS | **56** ALL-AMERICANS | **126** NBA DRAFT PICKS

#15 ABILENE CHRISTIAN (26-6, 14-4) vs. #2 KENTUCKY (27-6, 15-3)

Thursday, March 21 • 7:10 p.m. ET • VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena (15,000) • Jacksonville, Fla.

#ACvsUK #MarchMadness #BlueGetsIn #DreamBIG • @KentuckyMBB

THE BASICS

Series Breakdown
Overall - First meeting
Neutral - First meeting
Calipari vs. AC - 0-0
Golding vs. UK - 0-0
Current UK streak - N/A

John Calipari	Joe Golding
Overall Record: 747-210*	Overall Record: 114-127
Record at UK: 302-70	Record at AC: 114-127
Overall Seasons: 27th	Overall Seasons: Eighth
At UK: 10th	At AC: Eighth

**on-court record*

BY THE NUMBERS

2,290	All-time wins, NCAA leader
126	NCAA Tournament wins, most in NCAA history
58	Nation-leading NCAA Tournament appearances
28	UK NCAA Tournament wins under Calipari

TALE OF THE TAPE

UK	STAT	AC
76.7	Points PG	74.4
65.4	Opp. Points PG	63.2
38.4	Rebounds PG	33.2
13.8	Assists PG	15.7
5.1	Blocks PG	2.8
6.0	Steals PG	8.6
.478	FG Pct.	.471
.364	3-Pt FG Pct.	.387
.740	FT Pct.	.717
.403	Opp. FG Pct.	.431
.350	Opp. 3-Pt FG Pct.	.330

A UK WIN WOULD ...

- Be its 18th in the last 21 games
- Move Kentucky to 29-7 in NCAA Tournament games under John Calipari
- Improve UK's all-time NCAA Tournament record to 127-51
- Move Calipari's record to 161-46 in games played in March or April
- Be the first in program history against Abilene Christian
- Improve Kentucky to 23-7 overall as the No. 2 seed in the tournament
- Move Kentucky's record against No. 15 seeds to 8-0
- Be Kentucky's first win in NCAA Tournament history when the game is played in Jacksonville

POSSIBLE STARTERS

2 ASHTON HAGANS

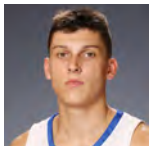
6-3 • 192 • GUARD • FRESHMAN
CARTERSVILLE, GA. | NEWTON

SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year (Coaches) | Tied Kentucky record with eight steals vs. UNC | Naismith Defensive Player of the Year semifinalist | Leads UK with 4.5 assists per game | Dished out SECT-tying record 12 assists in semifinals

3 KELDON JOHNSON

6-6 • 211 • GUARD • FRESHMAN
SOUTH HILL, VA. | OAK HILL ACADEMY

SEC Freshman of the Year, All-SEC Second Team and SEC All-Freshman Team (Coaches) | 13.4 points per game | Scored 19 points in win over No. 1 Tennessee | Game-high 17 boards in win over Auburn | Scored 22 points at Ole Miss



14 TYLER HERRO

6-5 • 195 • GUARD • FRESHMAN
MILWAUKEE | WHITNALL HIGH SCHOOL

SEC Newcomer of the Year (AP) and All-SEC Second Team and SEC All-Freshman Team (Coaches) | Averaging 14.2 points with team-high 57 3-pointers | Team-high 27 double-figure scoring games | Shooting 94.0 pct. at the free-throw line

22 REID TRAVIS

6-8 • 238 • FORWARD • GRADUATE STUDENT
MINNEAPOLIS | STANFORD

Returned from right knee sprain to play in both SEC Tournament games | Averaging 11.1 points and 6.9 rebounds per game | Senior CLASS Award finalist | Four games with 22 points | Blocked a career-high 23 shots

25 PJ WASHINGTON

6-8 • 228 • FORWARD • SOPHOMORE
DALLAS | FINDLAY PREP

All-SEC First Team (Coaches/AP) | Sporting News All-America Third Team | Team-high eight double-doubles | Averaging team bests in points (14.8), rebounds (7.5) | Semifinalist for Citizen Naismith Trophy | Wooden Award National Ballot

LEADERS

POINTS PER GAME		
UK	PJ Washington	14.8
AC	Jaren Lewis	13.5
REBOUNDS PER GAME		
UK	PJ Washington	7.5
AC	Jaren Lewis	6.2
ASSISTS PER GAME		
UK	Ashton Hagans	4.5
AC	Jaylen Franklin	4.9
STEALS PER GAME		
UK	Ashton Hagans	1.8
AC	Jaylen Franklin	1.8
3-POINTERS		
UK	Tyler Herro	57
AC	Payten Ricks	79
FIELD-GOAL PERCENTAGE		
UK	Nick Richards	.584
AC	Joe Pleasant	.543
FREE-THROW PERCENTAGE		
UK	Tyler Herro	.940
AC	Payten Ricks	.838

NEED TO KNOW

Kentucky is 126-51 all-time in the NCAA Tournament. The wins are more than any other school in NCAA history

UK has appearend in the NCAA Tournament 58 times, the most all-time

The Wildcats are 22-7 as the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament

UK owns the most wins (28), Final Four appearances (four), Elite Eight appearances (six) and Sweet 16 appearances (seven) since John Calipari took over in 2009-10

Reid Travis returned from injury in the SEC Tournament and averaged 9.5 points and 6.5 rebounds in two games

PJ Washington was named All-SEC First Team (Coaches/AP), Keldon Johnson was tabbed SEC Freshman of the Year (Coaches), Tyler Herro won SEC Newcomer of the Year (AP) and Ashton Hagans shared SEC Defensive Player of the Year (Coaches)

SCHEDULE

OCTOBER					
26	2/2	-/-	^TRANSYLVANIA	SEC	W, 94-66
NOVEMBER					
2	2/2	-/-	^INDIANA UNIV. OF PA.	SEC	W, 86-64
6	2/2	4/3	vs. Duke[1]	ESPN	L, 118-84
9	2/2	-/-	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	SEC	W, 71-59
14	10/2	-/-	NORTH DAKOTA[2]	SEC	W, 96-58
18	10/2	-/-	VMI[2]	SEC	W, 92-82
21	10/10	-/-	WINTHROP[2]	SEC	W, 87-74
23	10/10	-/-	TENNESSEE STATE[2]	SEC	W, 77-62
28	10/9	-/-	MONMOUTH	SEC	W, 90-44
DECEMBER					
1	10/9	-/-	UNC GREENSBORO	ESPN2	W, 78-61
8	9/8	-/-	vs. Seton Hall[3]	FOX	L, 84-83[OT]
15	19/18	-/-	UTAH	ESPN2	W, 88-61
22	19/18	9/10	vs. North Carolina[4]	CBS	W, 80-72
29	16/15	RV/RV	at Louisville	ESPN2	W, 71-58
JANUARY					
5	13/14	-/-	at Alabama*	ESPN	L, 77-75
8	18/18	-/-	TEXAS A&M*	SEC	W, 85-74
12	18/18	-/-	VANDERBILT*	SEC	W, 56-47
15	12/14	-/-	at Georgia*	ESPN	W, 69-49
19	12/14	14/12	at Auburn*	ESPN	W, 82-80
22	8/9	22/22	MISSISSIPPI STATE*	ESPN	W, 76-55
26	8/9	9/10	KANSAS[5]	ESPN	W, 71-63
29	7/6	-/-	at Vanderbilt*	ESPN	W, 87-52
FEBRUARY					
2	7/6	-/-	at Florida*	ESPN	W, 65-54
5	5/5	-/-	SOUTH CAROLINA*	SEC	W, 76-48
9	5/5	RV/21	at Mississippi State*	CBS	W, 71-67
12	5/5	19/21	LSU*	ESPN	L, 73-71
16	5/5	1/1	TENNESSEE*	ESPN	W, 86-69
19	4/4	-/-	at Missouri*	ESPN	W, 66-58
23	4/4	RV/RV	AUBURN*	CBS	W, 80-53
26	4/4	-/-	ARKANSAS*	SEC	W, 70-66
MARCH					
2	4/4	7/7	at Tennessee*	CBS	L, 71-52
5	6/6	-/-	at Ole Miss*	ESPN	W, 80-76
9	6/6	-/RV	FLORIDA*	CBS	W, 66-57
15	4/4	-/-	Alabama[6]	SEC	W, 73-55
16	4/4	8/8	Tennessee[6]	ESPN	L, 82-78
21	4/4	-/-	Abilene Christian[7]	CBS	7:10 p.m.

*All times Eastern | *SEC conference game | HOME GAMES IN CAPS | ^Exhibition*
[1]State Farm Champions Classic (Indianapolis | Bankers Life Fieldhouse)
[2]Ohio Valley Hardwood Showcase (Rupp Arena | Lexington, Ky.)
[3]Citi Hoops Classic (Madison Square Garden | New York)
[4]CBS Sports Classic (United Center | Chicago)
[5]SEC/Big 12 Challenge (Rupp Arena | Lexington, Ky.)
[6]SEC Tournament (Bridgestone Arena | Nashville, Tenn.)
[7]NCAA Tournament (Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena | Jacksonville, Fla.)

BROADCAST INFO

CBS (CBS SPORTS)
Ian Eagle, play-by-play
Jim Spanarkel, analyst
Jamie Erdahl, sideline

UK SPORTS NETWORK
Tom Leach, play-by-play
Mike Pratt, analyst

SATELLITE RADIO
Sirius 136 | XM 202 | Internet 972
(SiriusXM SATELLITE RADIO)

TV CHART

2 Ashton Hagans
Freshman | Guard
6-3 | 192
Cartersville, Ga.
Newton
@H23Ash
@ashton.hagans

3 Keldon Johnson
Freshman | Guard
6-6 | 211
South Hill, Va.
Oak Hill Academy
@keldonjohnson

4 Nick Richards
Sophomore | Forward
6-11 | 244
Kingston, Jamaica
The Patrick School
@iamnickrichards
@nickrichards_
@iamnickrichards

5 Immanuel Quickley
Freshman | Guard
6-3 | 185
Havre de Grace, Md.
The John Carroll School
@IQ_GodSon
@immanuelquickley_

10 Jonny David
Senior | Guard
6-2 | 188
Pittsburgh
Mt. Lebanon
@JonnyDavid
@jdavid010
@JonnyDavidUK10

12 Brad Calipari
Junior | Guard
6-0 | 179
Franklin Lakes, N.J.
MacDuffie School
@bradcalipari
@brad.calipari
@bradcalipari

13 Jemarl Baker Jr.
R-Freshman | Guard
6-4 | 192
Menifee, Calif.
Eleanor Roosevelt
@jemarlbakerjr
@jemarlbakerjr

14 Tyler Herro
Freshman | Guard
6-5 | 195
Milwaukee
Whitnall
@raf_tyler
@nolimitherro

21 Zan Payne
Freshman | G/F
6-4 | 240
Lexington, Ky.
Lexington Catholic
@youngpayne2321
@alexander.payne23

22 Reid Travis
Graduate | Forward
6-8 | 238
Minneapolis
Stanford University
@2ReidTravis2
@reid_travis_22

23 EJ Montgomery
Freshman | Forward
6-10 | 225
Fort Pierce, Fla.
Wheeler
@E_Montomery
@_mont23

25 PJ Washington
Sophomore | Forward
6-8 | 228
Dallas
Findlay Prep
@PJWashington
@pj_washington

JOHN CALIPARI
Head Coach
10th Season
@UKCoachCalipari
@UKCoachCalipari
@UKCoachCalipari

KENNY PAYNE
Assoc. Head Coach
Ninth season at UK
Fifth season as associate HC

TONY BARBEE
Assistant Coach
Fifth season at UK
Fourth season as assistant
@CoachTonyBarbee

JOEL JUSTUS
Assistant Coach
Fifth season at UK
Third season as assistant
@UKCoachJustus
@UKCoachJustus

JOHN ROBIC
Special Asstistant
10th season at UK
Third season as special asst.

Pronunciation Guide

JEMARL Baker	(Jamal)
Brad/John CALIPARI	(cal-uh-PEAR-ee)
Ashton HAGANS	(HAY-Gens)

Roster

ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (Previous School)
13	Jemarl Baker Jr.	G	6-4	192	R-Fr.	Menifee, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
12	Brad Calipari	G	6-0	179	Jr.	Franklin Lakes, N.J. (MacDuffie School)
10	Jonny David	G	6-2	188	Sr.	Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)
2	Ashton Hagans	G	6-3	192	Fr.	Cartersville, Ga. (Newton)
14	Tyler Herro	G	6-5	195	Fr.	Milwaukee (Whitnall)
3	Keldon Johnson	G	6-6	211	Fr.	South Hill, Va. (Oak Hill Academy)
23	EJ Montgomery	F	6-10	225	Fr.	Fort Pierce, Fla. (Wheeler)
21	Zan Payne	G/F	6-4	240	Fr.	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Catholic)
5	Immanuel Quickley	G	6-3	185	Fr.	Havre de Grace, Md. (The John Carroll School)
4	Nick Richards	F	6-11	244	So.	Kingston, Jamaica (The Patrick School)
22	Reid Travis	F	6-8	238	Gr.	Minneapolis (Stanford University)
25	PJ Washington	F	6-8	228	So.	Dallas (Findlay Prep)

Head Coach: John Calipari (Clarion, 1982)
Associate Head Coach: Kenny Payne (Louisville, 2003)
Assistant Coaches: Tony Barbee (UMass, 1993)
Joel Justus (UNC Wilmington, 2004)
Special Asst. to the Head Coach: John Robic (Denison, 1986)
Assoc. AD/Basketball Operations: Chris Woolard (UCLA, 1997)

Director of Basketball Admin.: Will Barton (Kentucky, 2013)
Strength Coach: Robert Harris (Kentucky State, 2009)
Athletic Trainer: Chris Simmons (Memphis, 2002)
Equipment Manager: Mark Evans (Kentucky, 2013)
Recruiting Analyst: Brady Kennedy (Kentucky, 2016)

POLLS, STATS, MEDIA INFO

Weekly Media Schedule

all times ET unless indicated otherwise

19 Tue.	20 Wed.	21 Thu.	22 Fri.	23 Sat.	24 Sun.	25 Mon.
Practice: 2:30 p.m. ET No media availability Travel day	Media: 2:45-3:15 p.m. ET Open practice: 3:25-4:05 p.m. ET	vs. Abilene Christian 7:10 p.m. | CBS	Practice: Closed Media: 3:10-3:50 p.m. ET	vs. Seton Hall or Wofford | TBA | TBA	Off day	Practice: 2:30 p.m. ET No media availability

Communications & PR Staff

Eric Lindsey
Director
Cell - 859.619.0944
Email - eric.lindsey@uky.edu

Deb Moore
Associate Director
Cell - 859.559.5781
Email - deb.moore@uky.edu

Jake Most
Assistant Director
Cell - 516.996.3229
Email - jake.most@uky.edu

Media Information

CREDENTIAL REQUESTS

Requests for single-game credentials should be made as far in advance as possible and no later than five days prior to game day online at sportssystems.com/Kentucky.

CREDENTIAL CRITERIA

The University of Kentucky's decision to issue credentials to a media outlet for the purposes of covering a UK basketball home or away event is determined by a variety of factors. They include the following:

- Amount of coverage given to Kentucky throughout the season
- Intention/ability to cover all 22 sports at Kentucky
- Distribution/size of publication: free, subscription, sale on newsstands, website traffic, etc.
- Radio or TV station program format and size of audience
- Length of existence of the publication, amount of original copy generated, number of full-time employees of the publication and the journalistic experience of the reporter(s)
- Attendance at Kentucky media sessions, including Olympic sport opportunities
- Space availability
- Professionalism, which includes but is not limited to conduct at games, press conferences, practices, on social media, etc.

The University of Kentucky has the right to revoke credentials under its own discretion.

INTERVIEW POLICIES-GENERAL

All interviews with University of Kentucky basketball players or staff members must be arranged through the Communications and public relations office. Media should never contact a player or coach directly.

The Wildcat Coal Lodge, dormitories, team locker rooms and other team quarters are private team areas. Media members are not permitted in these areas unless accompanied by appropriate university personnel.

PRACTICE/PRESS CONFERENCES

Other than announced exceptions, UK basketball practices are closed to the media. UK will accept requests to attend practice. All requests must be made by 10 a.m. the day before the practice. In cases in which practices are open to the media, no cell phones are allowed in the practice facility.

Player interviews are conducted prior to practices the day before a game and will be available to all UK media in the Joe Craft Center lower-level lobby. UK will accept requests for player interviews, but they must be submitted 24 hours prior to the scheduled availability.

Coach John Calipari or an assistant coach will meet with members of the media immediately following player interviews in the lower level lobby of the Joe Craft Center.

Gameday shoot-arounds are closed to the media.

TELEPHONE PLAYER INTERVIEWS

Telephone interviews are available to the media on a call-back basis. Individual player and coach telephone numbers will not be given to members of the media.

Players are instructed not to conduct interviews when contacted directly by telephone. The communications and public relations office will arrange for telephone interviews at a time most convenient for the student-athlete.

Other special requests are handled on a case-by-case basis.

POSTGAME INTERVIEWS

Following each game, there is a cooling-off period, during which time the players shower and dress. Approximately 10 minutes after the game ends, Coach Calipari conducts his postgame press conference while a player is taken to the UK Sports Network.

Following Coach Calipari's press conference and the cooling-off period, selected UK players are brought to the media interview room.

The Polls

Associated Press Top 25
March 11

1. Gonzaga (41)
2. Virginia (23)
3. North Carolina
4. Kentucky
5. Duke
6. Michigan State
7. Texas Tech
8. Tennessee
9. LSU
10. Michigan
11. Houston
12. Florida State
13. Purdue
14. Nevada
15. Kansas State
16. Virginia Tech
17. Kansas
18. Buffalo
19. Wisconsin
20. Wofford
21. Maryland
22. Auburn
23. Marquette
24. Cincinnati
25. Villanova

Receiving Votes: UCF, VCU, Mississippi State, Utah State, New Mexico State, Murray State, Louisville, Iowa State, Temple, Clemson, Liberty

USA Today Coaches Poll
March 11

1. Gonzaga (28)
2. Virginia (4)
3. North Carolina
4. Kentucky
5. Duke
6. Texas Tech
7. Michigan State
8. Tennessee
9. LSU
10. Houston
11. Michigan
12. Purdue
13. Florida State
14. Kansas State
15. Virginia Tech
16. Buffalo
17. Nevada
18. Kansas
19. Wisconsin
20. Wofford
21. Maryland
22. Marquette
23. Cincinnati
24. Auburn
25. Villanova

Receiving Votes: UCF, Mississippi State, VCU, Utah State, Hofstra, Washington, Arizona State, Murray State, Iowa State, Louisville, Seton Hall, Liberty, Baylor, UC Irvine

SEC Standings (through games on March 16)

Team	SEC Record	Overall Record	Games Back
LSU	16-2 (.889)	26-6 (.813)	-
Kentucky	**15-3 (.833)**	**27-6 (.818)**	**1.0**
Tennessee	15-3 (.833)	29-5 (.853)	1.0
South Carolina	11-7 (.611)	16-16 (.500)	5.0
Auburn	11-7 (.611)	26-9 (.743)	5.0
Mississippi State	10-8 (.556)	23-10 (.697)	6.0
Ole Miss	10-8 (.556)	20-12 (.625)	6.0
Florida	9-9 (.500)	19-15 (.559)	7.0
Arkansas	8-10 (.444)	17-15 (.531)	8.0
Alabama	8-10 (.444)	18-15 (.545)	8.0
Texas A&M	6-12 (.333)	14-18 (.438)	10.0
Missouri	5-13 (.278)	15-17 (.469)	11.0
Georgia	2-16 (.111)	11-20 (.355)	14.0
Vanderbilt	0-18 (.000)	9-23 (.281)	16.0

UK in the Rankings

Team Rankings (through games on March 17)

Category	Stat	SEC [NCAA]
Scoring	76.7	5th [73rd]
Scoring Defense	65.4	2nd [37th]
Scoring Margin	+11.3	3rd [24th]
Free Throw %	.740	4th [69th]
Field Goal %	.478	2nd [28th]
Field Goal % Def.	.403	2nd [26th]
3-Point FG %	.364	4th [85th]
3-Point FG % Def.	.350	11th [220th]
Rebounding Off.	38.4	2nd
Rebounding Def.	29.5	1st
Rebounding Margin	+9.0	1st [5th]
Blocks Per Game	5.1	3rd [12th]
Assists Per Game	13.8	6th [139th]
Steals Per Game	6.0	9th [204th]
Turnover Margin	-0.1	9th [188th]
Assist/TO Ratio	1.1	5th [124th]
Off. Rebs. Per Game	11.6	6th [70th]
Def. Rebs. Per Game	26.8	2nd [61st]
Def. Rebound %	.742	2nd
Off. Rebound %	.366	2nd
3-Point FG Per Game	6.0	14th [320th]

Individual Rankings

Category/Player	Stat	SEC [NCAA]
Assists Per Game/Hagans	4.5	7th [96th]
Asst. to TO Ratio/Hagans	1.9	5th [125th]
Def. Rebs. Per Game/Washington	5.2	6th [153rd]
Double-Doubles/Washington	8	6th [99th]
Field-Goal Pct./Washington	.515	3rd [83rd]
Field-Goal Pct./Herro	.469	8th [176th]
Minutes Per Game/Herro	32.2	11th
Off. Rebs. Per Game/Travis	2.6	7th [95th]
Points Per Game/Washington	14.8	12th
Points Per Game/Herro	14.2	13th
Points Per Game/Johnson	13.4	20th
Rebounds Per Game/Washington	7.5	7th [142nd]
Rebounds Per Game/Travis	6.9	10th [223rd]
Steals Per Game/Hagans	1.8	T4th [81st]

Upcoming in the SEC

March 19-22

Contest	Time	TV Network
Tuesday, March 19 (NIT)		
Arkansas at Providence	9 p.m.	ESPN2
Wednesday, March 20 (NIT)		
Norfolk State at Alabama	7 p.m.	ESPNU
Thursday, March 21 (NCAA Tournament)		
LSU vs. Yale	12:40 p.m.	truTV
Auburn vs. New Mexico State	1:30 p.m.	TNT
Florida vs. Nevada	6:50 p.m.	TNT
Kentucky vs. Abilene Christian	***7:10 p.m.***	***CBS***
Friday, March 22 (NCAA Tournament)		
Ole Miss vs. Oklahoma	12:40 p.m.	truTV
Tennessee vs. Colgate	2:30 p.m.	CBS
Mississippi State vs. Liberty	7:27 p.m.	truTV

All times Eastern

2018-2019

AWARDS CANDIDATES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: **UKATHLETICS.COM/DREAMBIG**

3

KELDON **JOHNSON**

G • 6-6, 211 • FR

- Voted SEC Freshman of the Year, All-SEC Second Team and SEC All-Freshman Team by the league's coaches
- Averaging team-best 16.1 points per game on 53.1-pct. shooting and 45.7 pct. from 3, plus 5.2 rebounds per game, in UK's nine games vs. AP Top 25 teams
- Scored 15 or more points in seven of UK's nine games vs. AP ranked teams
- UK is 5-0 when he makes at least three 3-pointers

2

ASHTON **HAGANS**

G • 6-3, 190 • FR

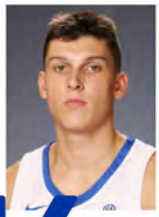
- Voted SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year by league's coaches
- Recorded at least three steals in seven straight games from Dec. 22 to Jan. 22, setting a school record while becoming the first major-conference freshman with three or more steals in seven straight since 2003-04
- Tied single-game school record with eight steals vs. North Carolina
- Naismith National Defensive Player of the Year semifinalist

22

REID **TRAVIS**

F • 6-8, 238 • GS

- Averaging 11.1 points and 6.9 rebounds per game while shooting 52.0 pct. from the field
- Blocked 23 shots in 28 games, more than his entire career at Stanford
- Averaging 14.1 points and a team-best 8.5 rebounds in his eight games vs. AP Top 25 opponents
- Four 20-point scoring games and four double-doubles
- Senior CLASS Award finalist - seniorclassaward.com/vote/



14

TYLER **HERRO**

G • 6-5, 195 • FR

- SEC Newcomer of the Year (AP) and All-SEC Second Team and SEC All-Freshman Team by the league's coaches
- Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the Week (12/3)
- Averaging 14.2 points with a team-high 57 3-pointers
- Averaged team-best 15.5 points on 50.5-pct. shooting in UK's 10 road games
- Team is 18-0 when he scores 15 points or more
- 94.0 percent at the FT line

25

PJ **WASHINGTON**

F • 6-8, 228 • SO

- All-SEC First Team (coaches and AP)
- USBWA Osccar Robertson National Player of Week (Feb. 19)
- Averaging team highs in points (14.8), rebounds (7.5)
- 10 games of 20 or more points
- Eight double-doubles
- Sporting News & USBWA All-America Third Team
- Naismith and Wooden Award candidate for POY

Honoring the Cats

Jonny David
- SEC Community Service Team

Ashton Hagans
- The Athletic All-Glue Team
- SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year (Coaches)
- All-SEC Defensive Team
- Naismith National Defensive Player of the Year Semifinalist
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Jan. 14)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Dec. 24)

Tyler Herro
- USBWA All-District IV Team
- SEC Newcomer of the Year (AP)
- All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- All-SEC Freshman Team (Coaches)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (March 11)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Jan. 21)
- USBWA Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the Week (Jan. 2)
- NCAA.com National Player of the Week (Dec. 31)
- Bluegrass Sports Commission MVP of UK-Louisville Game (Dec. 29)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Dec. 31)
- Jerry West Award Preseason Watch List

Keldon Johnson
- SEC Freshman of the Year (Coaches)
- All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- All-SEC Freshman Team (Coaches)
- Julius Erving Award Midseason Finalist
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Jan. 28)
- John R. Wooden Award Midseason Top 25
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Dec. 17)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (Nov. 26)
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50
- Citizen Naismith Trophy Early Season Watch List
- Julius Erving Award Preseason Watch List

Nick Richards
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award Preseason Watch List

Reid Travis
- 3x3U National Championship Late Season Watch List
- Senior CLASS Award Finalist
- Lute Olson Award Midseason Watch List
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50
- NABC Division I Player of the Year Watch List
- Citizen Naismith Trophy Early Season Watch List
- Preseason AP All-American Honorable Mention
- Preseason All-SEC First Team
- Karl Malone Award Preseason Watch List

PJ Washington
- USBWA All-America Third Team
- Sports Illustrated All-America Third Team
- USBWA All-District IV Team
- All-SEC First Team (Coaches/AP)
- Sporting News All-America Third Team
- Wooden Award Finalist
- Karl Malone Award Finalist
- Citizen Naismith Trophy Semifinalist
- USBWA Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week (Feb. 19)
- SEC Player of the Week (Feb. 18)
- Citizen Naismith Trophy Midseason Watch List
- Karl Malone Award Midseason Watch List
- SEC Co-Player of the Week (Feb. 4)
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50
- NABC Division I Player of the Year Watch List
- Citizen Naismith Trophy Early Season Watch List
- Preseason All-SEC Second Team
- NBC Sports Preseason All-America Fourth Team
- Karl Malone Award Preseason Watch List

Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament

Kentucky is making its nation-leading 58th all-time appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 2019 (59 on-court appearances as the 1988 appearance was vacated).

The Wildcats were selected as the No. 2 seed in the Midwest Region. The Wildcats will play Abilene Christian, the No. 15 seed in the region, on Thursday, in Jacksonville, Florida.

This is the seventh time in program history the Wildcats have earned a No. 2 seed in the annual event. UK owns a 22-7 record as the No. 2 seed. Most recently, the Cats participated as the No. 2 seed in the South Region of the 2017 NCAA Tournament, falling 75-73 to eventual national champion No. 1 North Carolina in the regional final after defeating the Tar Heels 103-100 in the regular season. Coincidentally, UNC is also the No. 1 seed in UK's region again.

UK is 47-10 in tournament openers and has won 24 of its last 25 opening-round tournament games. UK owns a 126-51 (record all-time in NCAA action, with its .712 winning percentage the fifth best in NCAA history). This is the sixth straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament for the Wildcats and ninth in 10 seasons under John Calipari.

Kentucky is set for its first all-time matchup with Abilene Christian. ACU is coming off a 77-60 win over New Orleans in the championship of the Southland Conference Tournament on Saturday. Abilene Christian will be making its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament after making the jump to Division I in 2013-14. ACU is 27-6 on the year and has won eight of its last nine games. Abilene Christian is averaging 74.4 points per game this season and is paced by senior forward Jaren Lewis, who is averaging 13.5 points and 6.2 rebounds per game.

With a win over Abilene Christian, Kentucky would face the winner of No. 7 Wofford (29-4) and No. 10 Seton Hall (20-13). UK has never faced Wofford, while the Wildcats and Pirates met in December in Madison Square Garden in New York City. Seton Hall claimed an 84-83 decision in overtime for a 2-1 lead in the all-time head-to-head series.

Kentucky is 28-7 (.800) in NCAA Tournament games under the direction of Calipari. Calipari is 53-18 (.746) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games.

Since Calipari took over the reins at UK, the Wildcats lead the country in:
- NCAA Tournament wins (28)
- Final Four appearances (four)
- Elite Eight appearances (six)
- Sweet 16 appearances (seven)

UK Continuing NCAA Tournament Success under Calipari

UK leads the nation in all-time NCAA Tournament victories with 126, but the Wildcats also lead the country in wins in the tournament since 2010, when John Calipari first led the Wildcats into the Big Dance, entering the 2019 tournament:

28 – Kentucky
23 – Duke
23 - Kansas
22 - North Carolina
18 – Wisconsin, Syracuse
17 – Florida, Gonzaga, Michigan State
16 – Butler, Louisville. Villanova

UK Battle Tested Thanks to Tough Schedule

Kentucky's schedule, as it is every year under John Calipari, is one of the best in the country.

Entering the NCAA Tournament, UK's schedule ranked as the 11th toughest in the NCAA's NET rankings with 15 games vs. quadrant one teams. As the Associated Press Top 25 stood at the end of the regular season, Kentucky's 2018-19 schedule (including the Southeastern Conference Tournament) featured 12 games vs. opponents either ranked in the AP Top 25 or receiving votes.

The good news is UK has played some of its best basketball against its best competition, boasting a 10-5 record vs. quadrant one teams and a 5-4 mark vs. teams that were ranked in the AP Top 25 at the time of the game.

That includes the victory over top-ranked Tennessee on Feb. 16 and a three-game buzzsaw vs. then-No. 14/12 Auburn on the road, then-No. 22/22 Mississippi State and then-No. 9/10 Kansas at home in January that the Wildcats went 3-0 against. It marked the first time since the 2015 NCAA Tournament UK faced three consecutive foes ranked inside the AP Top 25 and the first time in the regular season since the final three games of the 2005-06 regular season.

In the nonconference portion of the schedule, Kentucky faced the likes of Duke (Nov. 6) in Indianapolis in the State Farm Champions Classic, Seton Hall (Dec. 8) in Madison Square Garden in the Citi Hoops Classic, Utah (Dec. 15) in Rupp Arena, North Carolina (Dec. 22) in Chicago in the CBS Sports Classic and concluded December with a road game at Louisville (Dec. 29). Four of UK's nonconference opponents made this season's NCAA Tournament field.

And that's just the nonconference slate. The SEC got seven teams in the NCAA Tournament and UK played three of those teams at least twice. Four SEC teams ranked in the final regular-season AP Top 25 poll, including three in the top 10. In mid-January, six teams were in the AP Top 25 for the first time since Jan. 21, 2003.

Hold Them to 55 Points, 40 Percent

Defense has always been a recipe for success for the Wildcats under John Calipari. The special ingredient: 55 points. UK is a perfect 73-0 under Calipari when holding the opponent to 55 points or fewer, including 9-0 this season. The Wildcats are 170-7 (.960) under Calipari when limiting the opponent to 63 points or less. Kentucky's 61-59 loss to Tennessee in 2017-18 snapped a 60-game winning streak when holding the opponent to 63 or less.

Kentucky has also fared well when it keeps its opponents to less than a 40-percent field-goal clip from the floor. UK is 179-15 (.923) against opponents under Calipari when its field-goal percentage is 40 percent or lower, including 15-0 this season

This UK team has started to contribute to those stingy defensive numbers (see next section) ...

Defense Sets Kentucky Apart

After some early-season struggles on the defensive end, this Kentucky team found the look of John Calipari's past teams: stingy, physical and dominant during a 10-game winning streak midway through the season.

UK's field-goal defense, 3-point defense, steals per game and – the most important defensive statistic -- points allowed per game all showed significant improvement as conference season rolled around, which included wins over four Associated Press Top 25 opponents, key road victories and against league foes at or near the top of the SEC standings.

Kentucky held seven of 10 opponents to less than 40-percent shooting which is almost always a recipe for success for Calipari's teams (see above note). Over the final five games, UK put together the longest such streak of opponents being limited to 40 percent or less since the 2017-18 team concluded the season on a stretch of six such games.

Seven of those 10 opponents were also limited to 63 points or less. The Wildcats delivered Mississippi State (in Rupp), Georgia, Vanderbilt (in Rupp), South Carolina and Auburn (in Rupp) their season-low point totals at the time. That included limiting two straight opponents to 50 points or less (47 to Vanderbilt and 49 to Georgia), the first time that's happened since Feb. 14, 2015 vs. South Carolina (43) and Feb. 17, 2015 against Tennessee (48). Prior to the game at Mississippi State, UK had held five straight opponents to 63 or fewer, the first time that's happened since the 2014-15 team held eight straight teams to 63 or less from Jan. 13-Feb. 7, 2015.

Against Kansas, the Wildcats held the Jayhawks to just 20 points in the paint, their lowest total in two seasons, according to ESPN Stats & Info. Kentucky limited Vanderbilt to 17 second-half points in the teams' first meeting and then limited the Commodores to just 15 first-half points on Jan. 29 in Nashville. It was the fewest first-half points the Cats allowed since UCLA scored seven in the first 20 minutes on Dec. 20, 2014.

NOTES

2018-19 Lead-Deficit Comparison

Opponent	Biggest Lead	Biggest Deficit	Biggest Run	Changes	Ties	Led	Trailed	Result
vs. Duke	None	37 (2nd)	7-0	0	0	0:00	39:14	L, 118-84
S. ILLINOIS	12 (2nd)	8 (1st)	9-0	5	3	17:40	19:31	W, 71-59
N. DAKOTA	38 (2nd)	4 (1st)	15-0	5	2	35:45	1:32	W, 96-58
VMI	19 (2nd)	2 (1st)	12-0	8	6	31:53	2:20	W, 92-82
WINTHROP	26 (2nd)	1 (1st)	11-0	2	0	39:22	0:21	W, 87-74
TENNESSEE ST.	20 (2nd)	6 (1st)	11-0	3	2	29:28	8:45	W, 77-62
MONMOUTH	47 (2nd)	N/A	11-0	0	2	38:53	0:00	W, 90-44
UNCG	17 (2nd)	5 (1st)	10-0	5	5	16:52	19:45	W, 78-61
vs. Seton Hall	8 (1st)	4 (2nd)	8-0	13	11	24:19	7:40	L, 84-83^{OT}
UTAH	28 (2nd)	8 (1st)	13-0	2	2	33:21	5:06	W, 88-61
vs. N. Carolina	12 (2nd)	3 (1st)	5-0	2	4	35:33	2:53	W, 89-72
at Louisville	16 (2nd)	3 (1st)	11-0	3	3	36:24	1:09	W, 71-58
at Alabama	5 (1st)	11 (2nd)	10-0	10	9	10:10	25:49	L, 77-75
TEXAS A&M	14 (1st)	10 (1st)	13-0	1	0	30:13	8:09	W, 85-74
VANDERBILT	11 (2nd)	12 (1st)	7-0	1	2	18:48	19:52	W, 56-47
at Georgia	20 (2nd)	5 (1st)	11-0	3	3	30:52	6:14	W, 69-49
at Auburn	17 (2nd)	3 (1st)	11-0	7	7	32:25	4:17	W, 82-80
MISSISSIPPI ST.	21 (2nd)	4 (1st)	10-0	1	0	38:20	0:50	W, 76-55
KANSAS	10 (2nd)	10 (1st)	9-0	6	5	18:58	15:37	W, 71-63
at Vanderbilt	38 (2nd)	1 (1st)	14-0	4	1	37:19	1:22	W, 87-52
at Florida	11 (2nd)	11 (2nd)	14-0	7	4	7:17	31:25	W, 65-54
SOUTH CAROLINA	29 (2nd)	4 (1st)	10-0	7	5	29:53	8:01	W, 76-48
at Mississippi St.	18 (2nd)	2 (1st)	9-0	5	4	32:40	3:18	W, 71-67
LSU	9 (2nd)	5 (2nd)	6-0	10	7	28:06	8:19	L, 73-71
TENNESSEE	24 (2nd)	2 (1st)	16-0	1	0	38:36	0:28	W, 86-69
at Missouri	20 (2nd)	3 (1st)	8-0	3	1	37:43	0:42	W, 66-58
AUBURN	33 (2nd)	2 (1st)	18-0	3	0	37:18	2:26	W, 80-53
ARKANSAS	6 (2nd)	15 (2nd)	12-0	2	2	12:37	24:46	W, 70-66
at Tennessee	6 (1st)	20 (2nd)	7-0	5	1	3:08	35:42	L, 71-52
at Ole Miss	8 (1st)	6 (1st)	8-0	9	11	20:12	14:04	W, 80-76
FLORIDA	12 (2nd)	3 (1st)	9-0	7	4	30:10	6:32	W, 66-57
vs. Alabama	18 (2nd)	2 (1st)	11-0	3	3	35:53	0:51	W, 73-55
vs. Tennessee	8 (2nd)	5 (1st)	6-0	15	9	22:46	13:52	L, 82-78
BIGGEST/MOST	**47**	**37**	**18-0**	**15**	**11**	**39:22**	**39:14**	
TOTALS						**892:54**	**340:52**	

UK's defensive numbers serves as a snapshot of the defensive importance to success:

	Record	Opp. FG%	Opp. 3FG%	Opp. PPG
First 13 games	10-3	42.6	38.4	70.0
Winning streak	10-0	37.9	32.1	58.9
Final 8 reg. season	6-2	40.0	31.9	65.4
Postseason	1-1	38.4	41.0	68.5

Big-Game Cal, Cats

John Calipari's teams aren't just good against the best teams in the country, they're great. Not only does Kentucky have a 57-30 record (.655) vs. Associated Press Top 25 teams, UK is 6-4 when both teams are ranked in the AP top five under Calipari following the Feb. 16 win over then top-ranked Tennessee.

All-time, Calipari is 12-8 when both teams are ranked in the AP top five. When both teams are ranked in the AP Top 25, Calipari's all-time record is 80-53, including a 49-26 mark at Kentucky. When both are ranked in the top 10 he has a 26-18 record, including 15-11 at UK.

In terms of this season alone, Kentucky has answered the bell of big-time showdowns after an early season lesson vs. Duke. UK is 5-4 vs. AP Top 25 teams this season, including three victories over top-10 foes.

When Kentucky beat then-No. 1 Tennessee on Feb. 19, it marked UK's first win vs. the AP No. 1 team since toppling Ohio State in the 2011 NCAA Tournament. All-time it was the Wildcats' eight victory for the No. 1 team in 23 tries and its second largest margin of victory.

Calipari improved to 5-4 vs. the No. 1 team in his career with the win vs. Tennessee, including 2-2 at Kentucky. According to the SEC Network, there have been 87 coaches who have faced the No. 1 team in the country at least seven times but Calipari is the only coach with a winning record.

Three players in particular have stepped up in the top-25 matchups. Below are their averages in UK's nine games vs. AP Top 25 opponents:

- Keldon Johnson - 16.1 points per game, 5.2 rebounds per game, .531 field-goal percentage, .457 3-point FG pct.
- PJ Washington - 16.1 ppg, 6.7 rpg, .531 FG pct.
- Reid Travis (eight games) -14.1 ppg, 8.5 rpg, .531 FG pct.

Kentucky Leads League in End-of-Season Awards

Capping a strong regular season that ended with a 26-5 record and No. 4 national ranking, four Kentucky men's basketball players were honored by the Southeastern Conference with the league's end-of-the-season awards. Sophomore PJ Washington and freshmen Keldon Johnson, Tyler Herro and Ashton Hagans earned All-SEC awards, headlined by Washington making the All-SEC First Team (coaches and Associated Press), Johnson winning SEC Freshman of the Year (coaches), Herro earning SEC Newcomer of the Year (AP) and Hagans shared Defensive Player of the Year honors (coaches).

The Wildcats littered the All-SEC teams with eight coaches honors and 10 total between the coaches and AP, more than any other school:

- Washington – All-SEC First Team (coaches/AP)
- Johnson – Freshman of the Year (coaches), All-SEC Second Team (coaches), All-Freshman Team (coaches)
- Herro – Newcomer of the Year (AP) All-SEC Second Team (coaches), All-Freshman Team (coaches)
- Hagans – Co-Defensive Player of the Year (coaches), All-Defensive Team (coaches)

All 14 conference head coaches voted on the league's All-SEC squads. Ties were not broken. A media member that covered each school made up the voting for the AP's All-SEC awards.

Johnson became the 10th Wildcat to win SEC Freshman of the Year and the ninth player in 10 seasons under John Calipari. Herro is the eighth winner – all under Calipari – to win Newcomer of the Year.

With three Wildcats on the coaches' All-SEC teams, Calipari has now coached 26 players who have earned All-SEC accolades. At least one player has been named to the All-SEC Freshman Team in each of Calipari's 10 seasons, including 26 total, and in nine of the 10 seasons multiple players have been tabbed to the squad.

Hagans, in sharing the Defensive Player of the Year award with Waters, becomes the first Wildcat to win the league's top defensive honors since Tyler Ulis in 2016 and the sixth overall. He's also the first on the All-Defensive Team since Ulis.

Off the court, Jonny David was named to the SEC Community Service Team for his exemplary servant leadership. He's spent countless hours in the community, working with such organizations as the Special Olympics, God's Pantry, Samaritan's Feet, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

UK Also Dominated Regular-Season SEC Honors

As John Calipari's team has dominated the Southeastern Conference during his tenure, so too have his players.

A UK player was named one of the weekly winners a league-leading 10 times this season with PJ Washington winning SEC Player of the Week twice. Keldon Johnson and Tyler Herro have each won Freshman of the Week three times while Ashton Hagans has won it twice.

Kentucky has won more weekly SEC honors (99) than any other school during the Calipari era, including 79 SEC Freshman of the Week honors and 20

CATS IN THE NBA

At the beginning of the 2018-19 season, 31 former Wildcats were on an opening-day roster, more than any other school in the country. The following listing is as of the NBA All-Star break.

Name	Team
Bam Adebayo	Miami Heat
Eric Bledsoe	Milwaukee Bucks
Devin Booker	Phoenix Suns
Isaiah Briscoe	Orlando Magic
Willie Cauley-Stein	Sacramento Kings
DeMarcus Cousins	Golden State Warriors
Anthony Davis	New Orleans Pelicans
Hamido Diallo	Oklahoma City Thunder
De'Aaron Fox	Sacramento Kings
Wenyen Gabriel	Sacramento Kings
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	Los Angeles Clippers
Terrence Jones	Houston Rockets
Enes Kanter	Portland Trail Blazers
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	Charlotte Hornets
Brandon Knight	Cleveland Cavaliers
Kevin Knox	New York Knicks
Skal Labissiere	Portland Trail Blazers
Trey Lyles	Denver Nuggets
Darius Miller	New Orleans Pelicans
Jodie Meeks	Toronto Raptors
Malik Monk	Charlotte Hornets
Jamal Murray	Denver Nuggets
Nerlens Noel	Oklahoma City Thunder
Patrick Patterson	Oklahoma City Thunder
Alex Poythress	Atlanta Hawks
Julius Randle	New Orleans Pelicans
Rajon Rondo	Los Angeles Lakers
Karl-Anthony Towns	Minnesota Timberwolves
Jarred Vanderbilt	Denver Nuggets
John Wall	Washington Wizards

Several former Wildcats are among the NBA league leaders in the major statistical categories. Stats are through March 16. Former UK players are in ***BOLD.***

Points Per Game
1. James Harden (Rockets) - 36.1
9. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 26.3
12. Devin Booker (Suns) - 25.5
15. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 24.6

Rebounds Per Game
1. Andre Drummond (Pistons) - 15.3
7. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 12.2
T8. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 12.1
T15. Enes Kanter (Blazers) - 9.8

Assists Per Game
1. Russell Westbrook (Thunder) - 10.5
9. De'Aaron Fox (Kings) - 7.2
12. Devin Booker (Suns) - 6.8

Blocks Per Game
1. Myles Turner (Pacers) - 2.79
2. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 2.46
9. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 1.70

Steals Per Game
1. Paul George (Thunder) - 2.23
8. De'Aaron Fox (Kings) - 1.66
13. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 1.59

Field-Goal Percentage
1. Rudy Gobert (Jazz) - .653
16. Willie Cauley-Stein (Kings) - .547
18. Enes Kanter (Blazers) - .537

Free-Throw Percentage
1. Malcolm Brogdon (Bucks) - .928
18. Devin Booker (Suns) - .863

Double-Doubles
1. Andre Drummond (Pistons) - 56
8. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 45
11. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 36
18. Julius Randle (Pelicans) - 28
T20. Enes Kanter (Blazers) - 25

SEC Player of the Week awards.

When Washington won SEC Player of the Week for the second time, he became the first Wildcat to win the award twice in one season since Tyler Ulis won it two times during his 2015-16 SEC Player of the Year season. Washington is the fourth player in the Calipari era to win it multiple times in a season, joining Ulis, Julius Randle (2013-14) and Anthony Davis (2011-12).

Washington Named All-American

PJ Washington's successful mission to return to school this season to be one of the best players in college basketball has been underscored by two All-American selections. Both the Sporting News and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association have tabbed Washington All-America Third Team.

Washington is the first Wildcat to earn NCAA All-America distinction since Malik Monk a consensus second-team choice in 2017. The Sporting News and USBWA are two of the four "major" NCAA-recognized All-America teams that the NCAA uses for its consensus All-America teams. The other two are the Associated Press and the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Washington is the 11th player under John Calipari to earn All-America honors by one of the four major organizations. The remaining two are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

More Hardware for the Cats

The awards don't end with just the Southeastern Conference and All-American honors. PJ Washington and Tyler Herro were also named to the U.S. Basketball Writers Association All-District IV Team. The 11-man team comprised the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Ashton Hagans was selected for the Athletic's All-Glue Team, a distinction awarded by Seth Davis to some of the nation's most mature, dedicated and hard-working players who play a critical role on their respective team's success.

Keep a Watchful Eye on These Additional Awards

Stocked full of some of the nation's top talent, three Wildcats are still on a number of national watch lists.

- Ashton Hagans - Naismith National Defensive Player of the Year semifinalist
- PJ Washington - John R. Wooden Award National Ballot, Citizen Naismith Trophy semifinalist, Karl Malone Award finalist (Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's best power forward)
- Reid Travis - Lute Olson Award, Senior CLASS Award finalist

Travis a Finalist for Senior CLASS Award

Reid Travis is one of 10 finalists for the Senior CLASS Award. Honoring student-athletes who excel both on and off the court, the candidates must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence in community, classroom, character and competition to be eligible for the award.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

Travis is on the official ballot for a nationwide vote from fans, coaches and media. The winner will be announced during the 2019 NCAA Men's Final Four in Minneapolis in April.

Travis graduated from Stanford University in June with a degree in science, technology and society before transferring to Kentucky as a graduate student this summer. He is enrolled in UK's master's program in health promotion with an emphasis in sport leadership. Travis is intrigued by career aspirations in technology entrepreneurship after his time in Silicon Valley.

While at Stanford, he served the Ronald McDonald house once a month, interacting with families and serving dinner. The Cardinal became close with one particular patient, Ty from Lake Tahoe, and the squad adopted him as a member of their team. Ty spent time at practices and games while getting treatment at Stanford. Additionally, Travis has been a mainstay as a volunteer alongside his mom, Jacqueline, at their hometown church in Minneapolis. He's assisted her with setups and the organization of various meals and mass preparation.

While at Kentucky, he helps oversee the execution of UK's God's Pantry initiative as a part of his "Good Deeds" project. He is a part of the organization of stuffing bagged lunches and deliveries to local elementary schools. The entire team participated in Samaritan's Feet in the Bahamas and worked with the Salvation Army at Thanksgiving.

On the court, he is a two-time First Team All-Pac 12 selection. He was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District First Team and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association All-District team a season ago. Travis capped his career with the Cardinal having become one of just three players in program history to amass at least 1,400 career points and 700 rebounds in fewer than 100 games played. He ranked third in the Pac-12 in both scoring (19.5 points per game) and rebounding (8.7 rebounds per game) while scoring in double-figures in all but one game.

This season, Travis is averaging 11.1 points and 6.9 rebounds per game for the 27-6 Wildcats. He's connecting on 52.0 percent of his field goals and 72.7 percent of his free throws. He's blocked 23 shots, more than he combined for in his previous four

Measurables

Top Wing Span
1. Nick Richards - 7'5"
2. PJ Washington - 7'3"
3. Reid Travis - 7'0.25"
4. EJ Montgomery - 6'11.5"
5. Keldon Johnson - 6'8.75"

Top Vertical
1. Immanuel Quickley - 37.0"
T2. Johnson/Richards/Washington - 36.50"
5. Ashton Hagans - 36.0"
6. Reid Travis - 35.5"

Top Hand Width
1. Nick Richards - 10.5"
2. PJ Washington - 10.25"
3. EJ Montgomery - 10.0"
4. Ashton Hagans - 9.75"
5. Jemarl Baker Jr. -9.25"

NOTES

seasons at Stanford.

Travis has been at his best against the best. He's averaging 14.1 points and a team-best 8.5 rebounds in the eight games he's been available for vs. Associated Press Top 25 opponents.

Travis Looked Strong in Return from Injury

Reid Travis showed no signs of rust in the Southeastern Conference Tournament in his return from a five-game absence (sprained right knee). Travis played 25.5 minutes per game and averaged 9.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks in Nashville, Tennessee.

Travis sprained his knee midway through the second half at Missouri on Feb. 19 when a teammate attempting to rebound a ball inadvertently fell into Travis' right knee.

In his first game back, against Alabama, Travis made his presence felt on the defensive end with a career-high-tying three blocks in the opening half. He then poured in eight second-half points and added seven rebounds in 23 minutes of action. In the game vs. Tennessee, Travis provided a physical presence with 11 points and six rebounds. UK was up by three points when he fouled out with 2:32 left in the game but lost by four without him.

UK went 4-1 without him to close out the regular season.

Travis' impact was obvious in the three matchups vs. Tennessee. After beating the Volunteers by 17 with Travis -- a game John Calipari called Travis the "difference maker" becaues of his ability to neutralize UT's physical game -- the Wildcats lost to the Volunteers by 19 without him (sprained right knee) in the second regular-season game. In the SEC Tournament semifinals, UK was leading by three when Travis fouled out with 2:32 left in the game. UT went on to win by four.

Washington One of the Nation's Best

PJ Washington was always capable of being one of the best players in college basketball, and there were signs of it through the first year and a half of his career.

But it was those glimpses -- take, for instance, a career-high 29-point, 12-rebound, four-block, four-assist game vs. Seton Hall in December, or a near triple-double (11 points, 10 rebounds and a career-high eight assists) vs. North Carolina in the CBS Sports Classic -- that had John Calipari wanting more from his sophomore forward.

"I think when he plays at a different pace, a different level of intensity, a different level of bouncing and alertness, I'm telling you, he's as good as anybody in the country," Calipari said following Washington's performance vs. Kansas. "He is. When he doesn't, he's OK. He's just OK. So that becomes, what do you want? And then when you play that way ... that's when you become special."

Washington has decided he wants to be special.

He's emerged as one of the best players in the country and a leading candidate for national award consideration, which he's started to get as the postseason starts. He's already been named a Sporting News and U.S. Basketball Writers Association All-American (both third-team selections) and an All-SEC First Team member (coaches and media), plus he's on the John R. Wooden Award national ballot, is a semifinalist for the Naismith Trophy and a finalist for the Karl Malone Award (best power forward).

Over a 10-game stretch from Jan. 22 to Feb. 23, he averaged 21.0 points and 7.9 rebounds while shooting 55.7 percent and 52.8 percent from long range with 19 made 3-pointers (including a career-high five vs. Auburn).

The two-time SEC Player of the Week scored 20 or more points in eight of those 10 games and posted three straight double-doubles vs. Kansas, at Vanderbilt and at Florida to become the first Wildcat with three straight double-doubles since Julius Randle did it four times in March 2014. He has a team-high eight double-doubles overall after generating 10 points and 12 rebounds in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals against Alabama.

The 6-foot-8 forward is UK's leading scorer (14.8 points per game) and rebounder (7.5 rebounds per game). He averaged a team-high-tying 16.1 points in Southeastern Conference games and a team-best-tying 16.1 points in Kentucky's nine games vs. Associated Press Top 25 opponents. Entering the NCAA Tournament, he is 112 points shy of becoming UK's 61st member of the 1,000-point club.

A year after hitting just five 3s in 37 games at a 23.8-percent rate, he's drained 31 this season and is making them at a 41.9-percent clip. He's 22 of 47 (46.8 percent) over his last 18 games.

Entering the NCAA Tournament, he is one of just five players nationally standing 6-8 or taller averaging at least 14.5 points per game, shooting at least 50 percent from the field, at least 40 percent from 3-point range and with at least 30 made 3-pointers.

Said Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl after Washington torched the Tigers for 24 points and a career-high five 3-pointers in the game in Rupp Arena: "He's a national player of the year candidate without question."

On Feb. 19 he was named the Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association after leading UK to a win over then-top-ranked Tennessee. He became UK's first winner of award since Kevin Knox won it Jan. 31, 2018, and the fifth Wildcat overall since its inception in 2009-10, joining Knox, Malik Monk (2016-17), Julius Randle (2013-14) and Doron Lamb (2010-11).

Super Herro

In terms of productivity, PJ Washington has been Kentucky's best overall player this season, but Tyler Herro may be UK's most important.

The proof: UK is 18-0 this season when Herro scores 15 or more points. The Wildcats are 9-6 when he doesn't. In Kentucky's 27 wins he's averaging 15.0 points, 50.2-percent shooting and 41.7 percent from 3-point range. In the six losses, those numbers dip to 10.7 points per game, 33.3-percent shooting and 21.2 percent from behind the arc.

In other words, as Herro goes, so likely do the Wildcats.

Herro has proven to be much more than just a shooter, as many labeled him to be when he got to Kentucky. He's bucked those notions by becoming a lethal scorer from anywhere on the floor (second on the team in scoring), a much-improved defender (36 steals), an underrated rebounder (4.5 boards per game) and one of the nation's best at the free-throw line (94.0 percent).

Having made 62 of his last 63 foul shots, he's having one of the best seasons in the history of the collegiate game from the line. With a 94.0-percent rate and a minimum of 50 attempts, he would not only rank first in school history for free-throw percentage for a season but also for the entire league (with players between 50 and 100 attempts). Kyle Macy holds the school record at 91.2 percent in 1979-80 and Paul Smith of Mississippi State owns the SEC mark at

UK's Record vs. AP Ranked Opponents and as an AP Ranked Opponent Under Cal

	Opponent Rank																											
Kentucky (RK)	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**RV**	**NR**	**TOTAL**
1	-	0-1	0-1	1-0	2-0	2-0	-	2-0	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	2-0	1-0	1-0	-	1-0	3-0	1-0	-	-	-	6-2	46-2	**69-7**
2	-	-	-	0-1	1-0	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-0	-	1-0	-	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4-0	23-0	**32-3**
3	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	17-0	**20-2**
4	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	0-1	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	2-0	9-2	**13-5**
5	1-0	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	1-0	9-0	**13-2**
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	8-0	**12-1**
7	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4-1	**4-2**
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	0-1	-	2-3	11-0	**16-4**
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3-2	**3-2**
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-3	10-1	**10-5**
11	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	2-0	-	-	-	-	6-1	**11-3**
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	2-1	**5-1**
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6-2	**6-2**
14	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	7-1	**8-3**
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	3-0	**5-0**
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-0	4-1	**7-1**
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	3-2	**4-3**
18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	3-2	6-2	**9-4**
19	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-0	**4-0**
20	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	3-1	**4-2**
21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	2-1	**3-1**
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	5-1	**7-1**
23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	3-0	**3-1**
24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	**0-2**
25	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	**1-3**
RV	0-1	1-0	-	-	1-0	-	2-0	-	-	0-1	-	1-0	1-0	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			**6-3**
NR	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			**2-1**
																											Total	**277-64**
TOTAL	**2-2**	**1-2**	**0-2**	**3-4**	**4-1**	**2-1**	**4-2**	**3-1**	**3-2**	**1-2**	**1-1**	**4-0**	**5-0**	**2-1**	**1-1**	**4-0**	**3-0**	**1-2**	**1-2**	**1-1**	**4-0**	**4-0**	**1-2**	**1-1**	**1-0**		**Total**	**57-30**

Points Per Possession

Game	Off. PPP	Def. PPP
vs. Duke	1.02	1.44
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	1.04	0.87
NORTH DAKOTA	1.35	0.82
VMI	1.31	1.17
WINTHROP	1.10	0.94
TENNESSEE STATE	1.07	0.86
MONMOUTH	1.30	0.64
UNC GREENSBORO	1.10	0.86
vs. Seton Hall	1.06	1.08
UTAH	1.40	0.97
vs. North Carolina	0.96	0.87
at Louisville	1.15	0.94
at Alabama	0.96	0.99
TEXAS A&M	1.16	1.01
VANDERBILT	1.00	0.84
at Georgia	1.06	0.75
at Auburn	1.19	1.16
MISSISSIPPI STATE	1.09	0.79
KANSAS	1.04	0.93
at Vanderbilt	1.32	0.79
at Florida	1.03	0.86
SOUTH CAROLINA	1.12	0.71
at Mississippi State	1.13	1.06
LSU	1.09	1.12
TENNESSEE	1.26	1.01
at Missouri	1.12	0.98
AUBURN	1.27	0.84
ARKANSAS	1.09	1.03
at Tennessee	0.79	1.08
at Ole Miss	1.18	1.12
FLORIDA	1.08	0.93
vs. Alabama	1.12	0.85
vs. Tennessee	1.22	1.28

Overall

UK offensive high - 1.40 vs. UTAH
UK offensive low - 0.79 at Tennessee
Kentucky SEC offensive high - 1.32 at Vanderbilt
Kentucky SEC offensive low - 0.79 at Tennessee
Kentucky postseason high - 1.22 vs. Tennessee
Kentucky postseason low - 1.12 vs. Alabama

Opponent offensive high - 1.44, Duke
Opponent offensive low - 0.64, MONMOUTH
Opponent SEC offensive high - 1.16, Auburn
Opponent SEC offensive low - 0.71, S. CAROLINA
Opponent postseason high - 1.28, Tennessee
Opponent postseason low - 0.85, Alabama

Clutch Free Throws

Free-throw totals during a single-digit game with 5:00 to play or OT:

Player	FTs (Pct.)
Quade Green	4-4 (1.000)
Tyler Herro	13-14 (.929)
Immanuel Quickley	15-17 (.882)
Keldon Johnson	13-17 (.765)
Ashton Hagans	13-19 (.684)
Reid Travis	6-9 (.667)
PJ Washington	15-24 (.625)
Nick Richards	1-2 (.500)
EJ Montgomery	0-1 (.000)
Kentucky	**80-107 (.748)**

92.7 percent in 1965.

Herro made 98.2 percent of his foul shots during Southeastern Conference play. Only four players in NCAA Division I history since 1996-97 have made 98.2 percent or more of their foul shots in league play, which was also be a league record. His mark is the best among all major conference players since 1996-97 with Michigan's Daniel Horton's rate of 97.8 (89 of 91) in 2005-06 representing the previous record.

Overall, Herro is averaging 14.2 points per game with a team-best 57 3-pointers and a team-high 27 games in double figures. On the road he was even better

The freshman guard averaged 15.5 points on 50.5 percent from the field with 18 3-pointers in Kentucky's 10 true road games this season. Take away the uncharacteristic off day at Tennessee and his numbers balloon to a team-best 16.6 points on 54.1-percent shooting and 43.9 percent from behind the arc.

"I just like hitting big shots against people who don't like us," Herro said after going for 20 points with some big-time makes late in the game at Auburn.

Other key road performances included 15 second-half points on 5-of-7 shooting in the road win at Auburn, including the game-winning free throws, a key 3-pointer at Mississippi State to halt a furious comeback, 18 points at Missouri, and 20 points at Ole Miss including two late game-clinching free throws.

Herro scored at least 12 points in nine of the 10 away games and was one of four players nationally and the only freshman in the country to average at least 15.0 points on the road while shooting at least 50 percent from the field, at least 35 percent from 3-point range and at least 90 percent from the free-throw line.

Herro's breakthrough performance came in the form of a career-high 24-point effort on the road at Louisville, which marked the second-most points ever by a UK freshman against its archrival. He was named the Bluegrass Sports Commission's MVP of the game and then went on to win the USBWA Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the Week honor. NCAA.com named him its national player of the week, and he took home SEC Freshman of the Week accolades.

As good as the three-time SEC Freshman of the Week has been on the road, you could argue he had no bigger performance this season than the one he had in a 15-point comeback effort against Arkansas at home. He poured in a career-high 29 points highlighted by a career-high five 3-pointers. He didn't miss a shot in the second half and went 6 of 6 from the charity stripe.

Johnson Relishes Big Stage

If you've watched Kentucky in some of its biggest games of the season, chances are you've noticed Keldon Johnson making a major impact.

Whether it's scoring the ball, making a timely 3 or lifting the Wildcats with his emotion, he's usually at the center of the big stage.

Johnson is averaging a team-high-tying 16.1 points per game on 53.1-percent shooting and 45.7 percent from behind the arc, in addition to 5.2 rebounds per game, in UK's nine matchups with Associated Press Top 25 foes. That includes a 19-point outing in the win over top-ranked Tennessee on Feb. 16.

He's what they call a "gamer."

But Johnson's ability to step up when needed doesn't just pertain to matchups vs. AP Top 25 opponents. Take, for instance, the first half of the season. As Kentucky searched for an identity, Johnson was UK's most consistent scorer. He scored in double figures in 13 of the Wildcats' first 14 games, including four games of 20 or more points during that stretch.

Johnson's scoring average (13.4) has gone down since as PJ Washington and Tyler Herro have emerged, but Johnson is still making a significant impact, if for nothing else because of his efficiency.

He's shooting 46.3 percent from a guard position and he's one of Kentucky's most consistent 3-point shooters with a 38.8-percent clip. Johnson is second on the team with 40 3-pointers, and UK is 5-0 this season when he makes at least three 3-pointers in a game.

Johnson is also averaging 5.8 rebounds per game, including a monster day on the boards when -- again -- Kentucky needed him most. Without forward Reid Travis down low (sprained right knee), Johnson stepped up his game on the glass with a career-high 17 boards, the most by a Wildcat in a Southeastern Conference game under John Calipari against Auburn.

It came as no surprise then that Johnson won SEC Freshman of the Year as selected by the league's coaches, becoming the ninth player in 10 seasons with Calipari at the helm to win the honor. He was named SEC Freshman of the Week a league-high-trying three times this season.

One of his latest "big" moments came in the form of a 22-point, seven-rebound effort as UK wrapped up regular-season road action at Ole Miss. With Travis out for the fourth game and Washington limited in the first half due to foul trouble, it was Johnson who carried the Cats. He had 14 first-half points and five boards as UK kept the game within reach with its star sophomore on the bench for 13 minutes in the opening stanza. He also posted 15 points and six boards vs. Tennessee in the Southeastern Conference Tournament semifinals.

Hagans Puts Defense First

Ultimately the game of basketball is about who can score the most points, but if John Calipari was to write down some of the most important things that affect a basketball game, scoring would not be near the top of the list.

No player has had a bigger impact than Ashton Hagans doing the "other" things, especially defensively. Embracing his role as a defensive stopper, he has emphasized the notion that there are other ways to affect the game than just scoring the ball -- a big reason why he made the Athletic's All-Glue Team.

Consider this: He's averaging 7.7 points on the season, but he's been one of the most important players in Kentucky's defensive surge during the second half of the season. Take, for example, the North Carolina win. Hagans scored seven points, but his fingerprints were all over the outcome, especially on the defensive end, where he tied a school record with eight steals (previously set by Wayne Turner on Nov. 24, 1997, vs. George Washington and Rajon Rondo on Feb. 19, 2005, vs. Mississippi State).

UNC head coach and Hall of Famer Roy Williams said it best: "Ashton Hagans is 2 for 6, seven points, and I thought in some ways he was more dominating in the game than anybody."

Hagans' 1.8 steals per game ranks in a tie for third in the Southeastern Conference and ninth nationally among all freshmen through games on March 17.

Prior to a two-steal night against Mississippi State at home, Hagans had corralled at least three steals in seven straight games. He's the only player in school history with such a streak (since steals became an official NCAA statistic in 1985-86). According to STATS, he was the first major-conference freshman with three or more steals in seven or more straight games since Wake Forest's Chris Paul did it 10 straight games in the 2003-04 season.

He has some catching up to do but Hagans has at least entered himself in the conversation for one of the best seasons in program history for steals. Rajon Rondo owns the record with 87 steals in 2004-05. Hagans has 58 to this point, which is already the fourth most for a freshman in school history.

His defensive effort has not gone unnoticed. He was one of 10 semifinalists for the Naismith National Defensive Player of the Year, as awarded by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. He was one of just three freshmen and one of two SEC players among the semifinalists.

And it's worth noting that as Hagans' defensive stock went on the rise, his offensive numbers followed. He's scored seven or more points in 18 of the last 27 games, including back-to-back-to-back career-high scoring days vs. Louisville (11), Alabama (12) and Texas A&M (18), followed by a 15-point effort vs. Vanderbilt. Hagans then topped it with a career-high 23-point effort in his homecoming on the road at Georgia.

In addition to his scoring output, he leads the Cats with 4.5 assists per game, which ranked seventh in the SEC and 15th nationally among all freshmen through games on March 17. His 148 assists are the seventh most in a single season by a UK freshman in program history. Against Tennessee in the SEC Tournament Semifinals, he dished out a career-high 12 assists which also ranks as the most ever in a tournament game in program history. Dicky Beal previously held the record with 10 on March 8, 1984 against Georgia.

Cats Cleaning the Glass

Although this Kentucky team isn't quite as long in the frontcourt as some of John Calipari's more recent teams, it has rebounded the ball in dominating fashion this season and the proof is in the numbers.

Kentucky entered the NCAA Tournament ranking fifth in the nation in rebounding margin with a plus-9.0 margin and has outrebounded its opponents in 26 of 33 games. UK is 22-4 in those games.

UK averages 11.6 offensive rebounds per game and has hauled in double-digit offensive rebounds in 21 of 33 games.

That rate has propelled the Wildcats to 10th in KenPom.com's rankings for offensive rebounding percentage at 36.6 percent (through games on March 17). The advantage on the offensive glass has enabled the Wildcats to average 11.5 second-chance points per game.

Prior to the Utah game, Kentucky had outrebounded eight consecutive opponents by a combined 138 rebounds, an average of plus-17.3 per game. It was the best eight-game stretch under Calipari.

NOTES

Three Wildcats are averaging 5.8 rebounds or more per game, but sophomore PJ Washington has led the way with 7.5 boards per game. He's grabbed seven or more rebounds in 19 games with eight double-figure games (all resulting in double-doubles).

Washington grabbed a career-high 18 boards in the win over VMI with seven offensive boards and 11 on the defensive end.

The remarkable thing is Washington's 18-rebound game isn't even the best of the season. Against Southern Illinois, Nick Richards gobbled up a career-high 19 rebounds -- exactly what SIU totaled as a team -- to help lift Kentucky to a plus-29 margin on the boards. According to Big Blue History, a comprehensive fan website, it's the first time in school history a UK player has recorded as many rebounds as the opponent.

Richards had nine boards on the offensive end vs. SIU -- tied for the most in the Calipari era -- and 10 on the defensive end. The 19 total boards were the most by a Wildcat since Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 19 in a win over Louisville on Dec. 31, 2011.

When Keldon Johnson grabbed 17 rebounds vs. Auburn at home, Kentucky became just the second team in college basketball this season to have three different players grab at least 17 rebounds in a game this season, according to STATS. It's happened just five times since the 1996-97 season.

Johnson's 17 rebounds were the most by a Wildcat in a Southeastern Conference game in the Calipari era.

Cats Not Counting on the Long Ball

While Kentucky has struggled to defend the 3, it hasn't relied on it offensively even though John Calipari thinks this team has the chance to be the best 3-point shooting team he's coached at Kentucky.

UK is generating just 23.6 percent of its points from 3-pointers, ranked 341st in the country, according to KenPom.com (through games on March 17). Although Calipari believes this is one of his best 3-point shooting teams, he's also called this more of a post-up team, and the numbers show it, as UK is taking just 16.6 3-point attempts per game.

But, it should be noted that while the numbers are low compared to the rest of the country, they're about the norm for Calipari's past Kentucky teams. There's an old expression in basketball that you live by the 3 or die by the 3, but UK has generally done neither under Calipari.

In fact, the Wildcats' 3-point field-goal attempt percentage of 29.8 percent is about average for Calipari's previous Kentucky teams, as is the make percentage of .364 (see numbers below).

Calipari would like to see his teams take between 20 to 24 3-point attempts per game, which UK has done seven times this season.

Year	Pct. of Attempts that were 3s	3-Point FG Pct.
2009-10:	.313	.331 (lowest)
2010-11:	.324 (highest)	.397 (highest)
2011-12:	.265	.378
2012-13:	.293	.346
2013-14:	.276	.332
2014-15:	.271	.349
2015-16:	.310	.366
2016-17:	.316	.353
2017-18:	.258 (lowest)	.357
2018-19:	.298	.364

UK's 3-Point Defense Returning to the Norm

John Calipari-coached teams are typically among the best in the country at defending the 3-point shot.

Dating back to 2008-09 (the first season the NCAA has 3-point field-goal percentage defense statistics readily available), Calipari's last 10 teams (including his 2008-09 Memphis squad) have ranked in the top 100 in all but one season in 3-point field-goal percentage defense. Three of those have ranked in the top 10 and not a single team allowed opponents to shoot better than 32.6 percent from behind the arc.

As a matter of fact, if one factors in Calipari's teams at UK, Memphis and UMass, only two teams have ever allowed the opposition to shoot better than 35.0 percent for a season and 14 of his prior 26 teams limited the opposition to 32.0 percent or less.

It was a different story for the early part of the season.

Punctuated by VMI's historic 3-point display In the middle of November, a performance that included 19 3-pointers -- the most ever by a Kentucky opponent -- and 10 by Bubba Parham, opponents were lighting up UK from deep in the nonconference season.

Winthrop followed the historic VMI performance with 13-pointers of its own, and after a three-game improvement vs. Tennessee State, Monmouth and UNC Greensboro, Seton Hall hit 11. Eight Kentucky opponents have hit 10 or more 3-pointers this season.

However, the Wildcats have made major improvements. UK's 3-point field-goal percentage defense is down to 35.0 percent, and although Kentucky's opponents are still averaging 7.8 3-point makes a game, it's far better than where the number was hovering in December.

The improvements came in Southeastern Conference play, where opponents averaged just 32.3 percent from behind the arc.

Although eight Kentucky opponents have hit 10 or more 3-pointers vs. UK this season, it's only happened four times in the last 24 games after happening four times in the first nine.

Taking Advantage of Free Points

One of Kentucky's strengths this season has been its success at the free-throw line. UK is earning 22.8 percent of its points at the charity stripe and connecting at a 74.0-percent rate. Kentucky's free-throw rate is ranked ninth in the country, according to KenPom.com (through games on March 17), while its make percentage is rated 69th in the nation entering the NCAA Tournament.

Five players are shooting 70.5 percent or better, led by freshman Tyler Herro's 94.0 percent (Herro has made 62 of his last 63 foul shots).

Kentucky's strong performance at the line isn't relegated to its success rate of makes, but also the frequency in which the Cats are getting to the line and the number of makes per game. Through 33 games, Kentucky is traveling to the line an average of 23.6 times a game. The Wildcats are making an average of 17.5 a game. The opposition is averaging 11.1 makes on an average of 15.7 trips a game.

John Calipari's best free-throw shooting team at Kentucky shot 72.6 percent in 2014-15. The 2013-14 squad averaged the most trips (28.7) and makes (19.5) per game under Calipari's tutelage. UK's current free-throw percentage of .740 would be the highest since the 2008-09 team shot at a 77.3-percent clip.

Cats Deliver the Knockout Punch

UK is 258-5 (.981) in the John Calipari era when leading by at least 10 points at any time in the contest.

When Kentucky failed to put away South Carolina in 2017-18 after leading by as many as 14 points in the second half, it was the first time the Wildcats let a double-digit lead wind up in a loss since losing two such games in the 2015-16 campaign.

UK also gave away two double-digit leads during the 2012-13 season. Four of the five losses have been to conference opponents.

Perhaps most impressive of all is that 70.7 percent of games Calipari has coached in at Kentucky have produced 10-point leads at some point during the game for UK. The Wildcats have led by 10 points or more in a whopping 85.4 percent of Calipari's 302 career wins at Kentucky.

Always Efficient

According to Ken Pomeroy's calculations on kenpom.com, UK's teams under John Calipari have consistently ranked among the most efficient teams in the country per possession.

Year	Offense (Rank)	Defense (Rank)	Overall
2019	118.2 (13)	90.8 (12)	7th
2018	115.8 (24)	95.4 (22)	17th
2017	119.1 (12)	91.4 (7)	4th
2016	120.4 (5)	98.0 (53)	6th
2015	119.3 (5)	86.5 (2)	1st
2014	117.6 (10)	96.9 (41)	11th
2013	108.8 (42)	99.1 (129)	42nd
2012	122.9 (2)	88.2 (9)	1st
2011	118.1 (7)	90.4 (15)	6th
2010	116.1 (15)	86.2 (6)	3rd

through games on March 17

Taking Care of Business

Kentucky's 57-30 record vs. opponents ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 in John Calipari's tenure is impressive, but the Wildcats' ability to beat all-comers can't be overlooked. Under Calipari, UK is 245-40 vs. unranked competition, an .860 winning percentage.

2018-19 Lineup Comparison

A breakdown of Kentucky's most used lineups, including a breakdown of each lineup's +/- statistics:

Most Frequent Lineups	Total Minutes	Points For	Points Against	+/-	+/- per 40 min.
Hagans, Johnson, Herro, Travis, Washington	285:16	608	520	+88	+12.34
Hagans, Johnson, Herro, Washington, Richards	76:39	166	128	+38	+19.83
Johnson, Herro, Travis, Washington, Quickley	75:04	135	112	+23	+12.26
Hagans, Johnson, Herro, Washington, Montgomery	73:02	123	109	+14	+7.67
Hagans, Johnson, Herro, Travis, Montgomery	55:28	93	95	-2	-1.44
Johnson, Herro, Washington, Richards, Quickley	43:38	86	60	+26	+23.74
Johnson, Herro, Washington, Quickley, Montgomery	32:27	71	49	+22	+27.12
Johnson, Herro, Travis, Quickley, Montgomery	30:35	70	44	+26	+34.01
Hagans, Herro, Travis, Washington, Quickley	29:21	56	46	+10	+13.63
Hagans, Herro, Travis, Washington, Baker	26:50	53	41	+12	+17.89

S-E-C! S-E-C! S-E-C!

Kentucky has the unquestionable reputation as the league's gold standard. Since the SEC's inception in 1932-33, the Wildcats have been the most dominant team in the league, recording a 997-281 mark (.780) in regular-season conference play. Only two other teams have won more than 700 regular-season SEC games (Alabama and Tennessee), and no other team has a better winning percentage.

- Kentucky has averaged 11.6 wins and only 3.3 losses per season in 86 seasons in the SEC
- UK has won 48 SEC titles and 31 SEC Tournament championships
- The Wildcats have won 16 of the last 27 SEC Tournament titles
- Kentucky has won at least a share of five of the last 10 SEC regular-season championships under head coach John Calipari
- UK has played in the championship game of the SEC Tournament in eight of Calipari's 10 seasons, winning the tournament six times
- Seven teams made the 2019 NCAA Tournament field, tied for the second most of any league in the country
- Four teams from the SEC made the final regular-season Associated Press Top 25 with three in the top 10 and another team receiving votes. In mid-January, the SEC had six teams in the AP Top 25, the most since the league had six on Jan. 21, 2003
- The SEC's .747 winning percentage entering league play was its second-best winning percentage in the last 10 years, behind only last season's .763 mark

Bounce Back

The Wildcats don't lose very often during the John Calipari era, but when they do, they almost always bounce back. UK is 49-12 under Calipari following a loss.

The Wildcats have only lost back-to-back games 12 times during the Calipari era with three of those losses having come during a four-game losing streak from Feb. 3-14, 2018. That was the first four-game losing streak under Calipari.

Previously, the last time UK lost four games in a row was in February 2009, when the Wildcats dropped four straight games to end the regular season. It was the first time Calipari had lost four straight since the end of the 2004-05 season at Memphis.

Comeback Cats

Kentucky produced its biggest comeback of the season and its largest since a 17-point come-from-behind effort at West Virginia a season ago in a 15-point comeback against Arkansas to end February.

In all, UK has trailed by double figures and rallied for wins in five games this season. Kentucky came back from double-digit deficits in back-to-back games against Texas A&M and Vanderbilt earlier this season, trailed by 10 to Kansas, and 11 at Florida. The five wins from double-digit deficits are the most in a single season since the 2016-17 squad also rallied for five wins after trailing by double figures. It's the third time under John Calipari a team has rallied for five wins. The 2013-14 "Cardiac Cats" also achieved five comeback wins.

The common denominators among all five games: slow starts. UK fell behind 10-0 to Texas A&M, Vanderbilt 16-4 in the first of two meetings, Kansas earned an early 10-point edge in the opening half and Florida utilized a 40-percent shooting clip from long range to build a halftime lead and an 11-point edge early in the second half. The Wildcats turned the ball over 12 times in the opening half against the Razorbacks, faced an 11-point deficit at the break and saw the disadvantage swell to 15 early in the second half.

Against Texas A&M, Kentucky led by 12 at halftime, and after allowing Vanderbilt to score 22 points in the first 8:34 of the team's first meeting, the Wildcats' defense limited the Commodores to just 25 points over the final 31:26 of game time.

Kentucky trailed by 10, 16-6, with 9:45 to play in the opening half against Kansas. UK cut the deficit to three at halftime before pulling away with a 71-63 win. The Gators held an 11-point lead with 13 minutes to play before PJ Washington sparked a 14-0 run over a five-minute span to help Kentucky eventually pull away for a nine-point lead.

Arkansas led by its largest margin with just over 18 minutes to go in the second half. Tyler Herro's perfect second half from the floor aided an 18-3 spurt and the Wildcats eventually earned a four-point win over the Hogs.

National Domination

It took 117 seasons of basketball to do, but Kentucky has finally pulled off the rare and impressive feat of having defeated a team from all 50 states in the country.

North Dakota was the lone state from which the Wildcats had never played an opponent (nor, obviously, beaten one). UK finally had the opportunity in November and took care of business with a 96-58 win.

North Dakota is one of five states UK has played only once, the other four being Delaware, New Mexico, South Dakota and Vermont.

Tennessee -- not Kentucky -- is the state that UK has played more games, won more contests and dropped more matchups against than any other state because of Southeastern Conference rivals Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

Forever Young

When PJ Washington, Quade Green (who has now transferred) and Nick Richards, three key pieces on the 2017-18 Southeastern Conference Tournament championship team, decided to return for their sophomore seasons, it marked a big boost in returning talent.

The trio accounted for 2,224 minutes, 905 points, 434 rebounds, 157 assists and 64 blocks a season ago. They combined for 80 starts in 2017-18. That's a lot by the John Calipari era standard.

As a matter of fact, throw in the returning reserves Brad Calipari and Jonny David and UK returned its highest percentage of minutes (33.1 percent), points (32.0 percent) and rebounds (30.6) since the 2014-15 team that went 38-1 and advanced to the Final Four. And that's not even factoring in a graduate transfer (Reid Travis) with more than 100 career starts.

But, to call this team experienced would be inaccurate -- at least according to Ken Pomeroy's experience rankings. A year after checking in with the least amount of experience in the history of the KenPom.com rankings, UK is near the bottom once again.

Entering the NCAA Tournament, Kentucky ranked 351st out of 353 teams in terms of experience with an average age of 0.58 years. It's the least experienced Power 5 team in the country, according to KenPom.

And according to one NCAA survey, UK is one of just 16 schools with one or fewer scholarship players that are seniors or graduate transfers. That same survey revealed that Kentucky is tied nationally for the second-most players who are sophomores or younger on scholarship. Furthermore, Kentucky's roster is made up of 58 percent of its players who are redshirt freshman or younger. Only South Dakota (62 percent) and Wyoming (69 percent) have more youth according to a February survey.

Having said all that, it does rank as one of Calipari's most experienced teams at Kentucky, and that's important. Every team but one in the Calipari era has made the NCAA Tournament, but Calipari's best teams have always combined young talent with a few returning pieces.

The 2009-10 squad with John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins had veteran Patrick Patterson. The 2010-11 Final Four team had DeAndre Liggins and Josh Harrellson. The 2011-12 national championship team boasted three key returners in Terrence Jones, Doron Lamb and Darius Miller. The 2013-14 national runner-up squad featured Alex Poythress and Willie Cauley-Stein. And then the 2014-15 team that nearly ran the table had both Poythress and Cauley-Stein back again in addition to Andrew and Aaron Harrison and Dakari Johnson.

Calipari Redshirting for 2018-19

Junior Brad Calipari is redshirting for the 2018-19 season and will have two seasons of eligibility remaining after 2018-19. He has continued to practice and travel with the team.

The two-time Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll member is on track to graduate in three years with a degree in communication. After that he plans to pursue graduate school.

Calipari has played in 27 career games in his first two seasons as a Wildcat and has recorded 11 points and five rebounds. He played in five of UK's six exhibition games in the preseason, totaling three points, three rebounds and two assists in 40 minutes. He played eight minutes vs. Transylvania but did not appear in the final tune-up against Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Best in the Bluegrass

Kentucky has been dominant against teams in the state under John Calipari. Kentucky is 17-2 against in-state foes with Calipari at the helm.

The mark also includes a 10-2 mark vs. Louisville. Two of the victories over the Cardinals came in postseason play. UK had its four-game winning streak snapped in 2016-17 but has won all five meetings played in Rupp Arena, including a 29-point blowout in 2017-18, the third-biggest margin of victory in the history of the series. Louisville's two wins have come by a combined six points.

Here's a list of the meetings between the state's two premier programs since Calipari took over at UK:

- Jan. 2, 2010 - UK won 71-62 at Rupp Arena
- Dec. 31, 2010 - UK won 78-63 at the KFC Yum! Center
- Dec. 31, 2011 - UK won 69-62 at Rupp Arena
- March 31, 2012 - UK won 69-61 at the Superdome (NCAA Final Four in New Orleans)
- Dec. 29, 2012 - Louisville won 80-77 at the KFC Yum! Center
- Dec. 28, 2013 - UK won 73-66 at Rupp Arena
- March 28, 2014 - UK won 74-69 at Lucas Oil Stadium (NCAA Sweet 16 in Indianapolis)
- Dec. 27, 2014 - UK won 58-50 at the KFC Yum! Center
- Dec. 26, 2015 - UK won 75-73 at Rupp Arena
- Dec. 21, 2016 - Louisville won 73-70 at the KFC Yum! Center
- Dec. 29, 2017 - UK won 90-61 at Rupp Arena
- Dec. 29, 2018 - UK won 71-58 at the KFC Yum! Center

Kentucky Signees Allen, Maxey Highly Decorated

The first two dominoes of what expects to be another stellar Kentucky recruiting class fell with the official commitments of highly coveted prospects Tyrese Maxey and Dontaie Allen. Both signed national letters of intent during the fall signing period and will be eligible to play for Kentucky starting with the 2019-20 season.

Maxey is a consensus top-10 player and a five-star prospect. Allen was a fast-riser in the recruiting rankings last summer and is a four-star prospect.

In every season in the Calipari era, the Wildcats have signed a top-three recruiting class according to the Recruiting Services Consensus Index, which tallies major recruiting rankings and plugs them into a formula to calculate a consensus ranking.

UK can only comment on prospective student-athletes who have signed official paperwork to play at Kentucky.

- Allen - 6-foot-6, 200 pounds | 2019 Kentucky Mr. Basketball | Averaged 42.9 points and 14.2 rebounds per game his senior season before a knee injury | Limited to just 13 games during his senior season after suffering a torn ACL in his left knee on Dec. 22 | Capped his high school career with 3,255 career points, which ranks 11th all-time in state history | His 1,228 career rebounds is the 22nd most in Kentucky history | Dropped 50 or more points in six of his first 12 games during his senior campaign | Averaged 31.8 points and 11.4 rebounds per game as a junior | Ranked as high as No. 55 by Rivals | First player from the state of Kentucky to sign a national letter of intent with UK since Dominique Hawkins and Derek Willis, who were both part of the class of 2013 (current freshman Zan Payne joined the team as a walk-on in the spring and did not sign an NLI)
- Maxey - 6-4, 185 pounds | Chosen for the McDonald's All American Game (March 27 in Atlanta on ESPN) | Selected for Jordan Brand Classic (April 20 in Las Vegas) | Will play in the Nike Hoop Summit Game on April 12 in Portland, Oregon | Tabbed Naismith All-America Second Team | Through 38 games of his senior season, logging 22.2 points per game, 6.3 boards, 3.6 assists and 1.7 steals per game | One of the leading scorers on the Nike summer circuit this last season | Ranked as high as No. 9 overall by Rivals and No. 11 by ESPN and

NOTES

247 Sports | Led USA Basketball to a gold medal at the 2018 FIBA Americas Championship

UK Led Nation with 31 Players on NBA Opening-Day Rosters

Every year the numbers gets bigger and wilder, but the bottom line remains the same: No school can match the Kentucky men's basketball team's ability to develop players and put them in the NBA.

A whopping 31 players on NBA opening-day rosters (including two-way, inactive and suspension lists) played and finished their college basketball careers at the University of Kentucky, the nation's most prolific NBA player-producing program in the country. UK's 31 players were once again the most of any college basketball program, beating the next-closest school (Duke with 25) by six players.

Of the 31 players in the NBA to start the 2018-19 season, 6.3 percent played and finished their college basketball careers at UK. There are actually fewer teams without a Wildcat (11) than there are NBA teams featuring Wildcats (19).

John Calipari coached 29 of the 31 Wildcats that were on an opening-day NBA rosters. With Tyreke Evans (Indianapolis Pacers) and Derrick Rose (Minnesota Timberwolves), who played for Calipari at Memphis, Calipari has coached 31 players on 2018-19 opening-day rosters.

Using figures compiled by basketball-reference.com and spotrac.com, Calipari-coached players only (which includes Rose and Evans but not Meeks or Rondo) have amassed nearly $1.9 billion in career NBA contracts ($1.87 billion). In the nine seasons Calipari has been the head coach at Kentucky, his players have totaled more than $1.5 billion in NBA contracts.

In just the 2018-19 season alone, UK players are slated to make almost $190 million. Calipari-coached players only (which includes Rose and Evans but not Meeks or Rondo) will make nearly $195 million.

Among the most noteworthy performances of the season so far:

- De'Aaron Fox not only posted his first career triple-double on Nov. 1, he became the youngest player in league history to record 30 or more points, 15 or more assists, and 10 or more rebounds in a game. He joined LeBron James as the only players in NBA history to record 30-point triple-doubles before their 21st birthday
- Enes Kanter became the first Knick since 1970-71 to record 20 points and 20 rebounds off the bench with his 23-point, 24-rebound effort vs. the Bulls on Nov. 5
- Jamal Murray just missed out on becoming the eighth former Calipari player to score 50 or more points in a game with a career-high 48 points vs. the Celtics on Nov. 5
- Julius Randle recorded a triple-double vs. the San Antonio Spurs on Nov. 19. In the process, he became just the fourth player in NBA history to record a triple-double in 25 minutes or less
- Anthony Davis reached 10,000 points on Nov. 21, becoming the eighth-youngest player to do so
- Kanter recorded his fourth career 20-20 game as a Knick on Nov. 25. He's one of eight players to have done it four times with the Knicks
- Kevin Knox scored 26 points off the bench on Dec. 1 to become the youngest player in franchise history to score 20 or more points
- On Dec. 9, Knox joined LeBron James as just the second player in NBA history with at least 25 points and 15 rebounds as a teenager. He also became just the second Knicks rookie over the last 35 years with 25 points and 15 rebounds in a game
- Davis tallied his 15th career 40-point, 15-rebound effort on Dec. 10. Only Shaquille O'Neal (19) has more over the last 35 years in the NBA
- On Dec. 16, John Wall became the second player in Washington's history to have multiple career games with 40 or more points and 10 or more assists
- On Jan. 3, Knox was named the Eastern Conference Rookie of the Month for his play during the month of December. He led the conference's rookies in scoring (17.1 ppg), 3-pointers (33), was second in rebounding (6.0 rpg) and led all rookies in minutes (34.9 mpg). He's the sixth different former UK player to win a Rookie of the Month honor
- Murray scored 34 of his 36 points in the second half on Jan. 3 in a win over the Kings. It was the most points scored in a half by a Nuggets player since Carmelo Anthony had 36 in the second half vs. Minnesota on Dec. 10, 2008
- On Jan. 8, Noel charted his 20th consecutive game with at least one block, marking the longest such streak in the NBA this season
- Karl-Anthony Towns posted monster numbers on Jan. 12 vs. the Pelicans, recording 27 points, a career-high 27 rebounds and four blocks. According to the Timberwolves, he's one of just five players in NBA history to post those numbers or better
- Davis recorded his 10th 45-point, 15-rebound game on Jan. 14. He's the only player since at least 1983 to have 10 or more, according to Basketball Reference
- Knox became the sixth-youngest player in NBA history to score 30 or more points in a game on Jan. 14. Booker is among those top six
- DeMarcus Cousins made his much-anticipated return from an achilles tear a year earlier with 14 points, six rebounds and three assists in 15 minutes on Jan. 18
- With 27 points against the Blazers on Jan. 24, Booker became the fifth-youngest player to register 5,000 career points. Only LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard did it faster
- On Feb. 4, Fox recorded his fifth 20-5-5 game of the season. According to Basketball Reference, since 1983 only two Kings players (Lionel Simmons, Tyreke Evans) have had more in one of their first two NBA seasons
- Hamidou Diallo became the third Wildcat in school history (Kenny Walker in 1989 and John Wall in 2014) to win the NBA Slam Dunk Contest on Feb. 16
- Towns missed two games on Feb. 22 and 23 after suffering a concussion in a car crash. He had started the first 303 career games of his career, the most consecutive games starting with his team's first game of his rookie season since the NBA began keeping track of starters in 1970-71
- On March 2, Eric Bledsoe agreed to a four-year, 70-million dollar contract extension with the Milwaukee Bucks
- Over a five-game span, Towns scored 182 points from Feb. 25 to March 5. It's the most points scored over a five-game stretch in Wolves' team history. He moved into fifth place on Minnesota's all-time scoring list in the span
- On March 8, Booker became the yougest player in league history to make 500 3-pointers, according to the Suns
- Randle scored a career-high 45 points to go along with 11 rebounds, six assists and three blocks vs. Portland on March 15

Diallo Wins NBA Slam Dunk Contest

Kentucky was well represented at NBA All-Star festivities in Charlotte with seven Wildcats -- Anthony Davis, Karl-Anthony Towns, Devin Booker, De'Aaron Fox, Kevin Knox, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Hamidou Diallo -- all participating in the various competitions. Diallo headlined weekend for the NBA Cats by winning the NBA Slam Dunk Contest.

Davis (New Orleans Pelicans) and Towns (Minnesota Timberwolves), as NBA Western Conference All-Star reserves, were a part of the 178-164 Team LeBron victory. Towns scored 11 points in 11 minutes but Davis, coming off an injury recently, was limited to four minutes.

Davis made his sixth consecutive appearance and Towns appeared in the game for the second straight year. Davis' six appearances are the most of any Wildcat in program history. For the second straight year, Kentucky led the league with former players in the NBA's annual game featuring its top players. UK had four selections a season ago and tied Texas (Kevin Durant, LaMarcus Aldridge) with two in 2019.

Diallo became the third UK player to take home top honors in the Dunk Contest with a victory on Saturday night. Kenny "Sky" Walker claimed the crown in 1989 and John Wall captured the title in 2014. Diallo displayed a flash of showmanship on what became his most talked-about dunk of the night. He called Hall of Famer and the original "Superman" Shaquille O'Neal out of the crowd to take part in his flush. Diallo cleared the 7-footer and then stuck his elbow in the rim in a nod to former Dunk Contest winner Vince Carter. He then snatched open his jersey to reveal a Superman shirt underneath. The dunk earned a perfect 50 rating from the judges.

The Queens, New York, native was not the only Wildcat in action on Saturday. Booker (2015) participated in the Mtn Dew 3-Point Contest and Fox (2017) was part of the field in the Taco Bells Skills Challenge.

Kevin Knox (2018), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2018) and Fox got the weekend started on Friday in the Mtn Dew Ice Rising Stars Game. Each former Wildcat put up solid numbers in the game featuring the league's top first and second-year players. Fox was one of five starters for Team USA and had a game-high 16 assists and five steals. Knox scored 11 points as USA won 161-144. Gilgeous-Alexander boasted 15 points, six assists, five boards and a trio of steals for Team World.

Football Success Spells Basketball Glory?

The Kentucky football team enjoyed a historic season in 2018. The Wildcats accomplished all sorts of firsts, set school records and competed for a conference championship until late in the season. UK ultimately finished with 10 wins for the first time since 1977, punctuated by a victory over Penn State in the VRBO Citrus Bowl.

So what in the world does that have to do with Kentucky basketball?

Well, if you're into historical omens, past football success has coincidentally served as a precursor to the ultimate college basketball accomplishment. In the previous two fall seasons that UK football won at least 10 games, in the fall of 1950 and the fall of 1977, Kentucky basketball followed with a national championship in the spring of 1951 and the spring of 1978.

Can the basketball Wildcats make it three for three?

All Eyes on Kentucky

From Kentucky's rabid fan base to arguably the largest media contingent following a team in the country, the spotlight on UK is both bigger and brighter than any other team in college basketball.

Recent television numbers released underscored that notion.

Through mid-February, Kentucky was featured in four of the top seven most-watched games of the 2018-19 season. UK appears in the top five more than any other school. All three of the games featured at least 2.7 million viewers.

Kentucky has also been featured on ESPN College GameDay twice this season (when Kansas came to town Jan. 26 and Feb. 16 vs. Tennessee). It marked just the second time in College GameDay history that the popular ESPN preview show originated at a school twice in a single season (North Carolina in 2017).

When GameDay visited Memorial Coliseum for the Feb. 16 visit, UK tied North Carolina and Duke for the most GameDay appearances with 18.

Davis Inducted into UK Athletics Hall of Fame

Anthony Davis was inducted into the UK Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the 2017 class in September.

Wins vs. Losses

Result	FG%	Opp. FG%	3-Pt. FG%	Opp 3-Pt. FG%	FT%	RPG	APG	TOPG	BPG	SPG	PPG	Opp PPG
Wins	.489	.387	.384	.336	.742	38.9	13.7	12.6	5.4	6.6	77.4	61.3
Losses	.434	.469	.279	.410	.731	36.2	14.5	13.0	3.5	3.7	73.8	84.2

Davis led UK to the 2012 national championship with one of the most dominating seasons by a freshman in college basketball history. A winner of virtually every major national award, Davis was tabbed, among others: National Player of the Year, NCAA Final Four Most Outstanding Player, NCAA Consensus First Team All-American, National Freshman of the Year, Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, SEC Defensive Player of the Year and SEC Freshman of the Year.

The 2011-12 Wildcat guided UK to a 38-2 record and an SEC regular-season championship while shattering the single-season school record for blocks in a season with 186, which ranks as the fourth in NCAA history.

Davis was selected No. 1 overall in the 2012 NBA Draft and is now in his seventh season in the league. He's a five-time NBA All-Star, a three-time All-NBA First Team member, the 2017 NBA All-Star MVP and a 2012 Olympic gold medalist.

Success Rate

The Wildcats received an NCAA award in the spring of 2018 for placing in the top 10 percent of all men's basketball teams in the country in the NCAA's annual Academic Progress Rate. UK scored a perfect 1,000. It's the fourth straight year the men's basketball team received the award and the fifth time since 2009.

The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success by the progress of each student-athlete on scholarship. The APR measures academic eligibility, retention and graduation. The scores are a four-year composite, covering the 2013-14 through 2016-17 school years.

Every Division I sports team across the nation calculates its APR each academic year, similar to a report card. Scholarship student-athletes each semester earn one point for remaining eligible and one point for staying in school or graduating.

UK has received a perfect 1,000 mark in each of the last five single-year APR rates.

The NCAA cut score to compete in the 2017-18 postseason is a 930 four-year APR. Teams scoring below 930 can face consequences intended to direct additional focus on academics. Those penalties can include practice restrictions and playing-season reductions.

UK to Remain in Champions Classic through '22

The State Farm Champions Classic, perhaps the signature annual event of the college basketball regular season, will continue through 2022 with Kentucky a part of it.

The Champions Classic, a neutral-site doubleheader featuring UK, Duke, Kansas and Michigan State, has added three more years to the current series, which was played in Indianapolis this season and New York next year. The additional three years will bring the event back to Chicago in 2020, New York in 2021 and Indianapolis in 2022.

UK, which played Duke this season at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis to tip off the season, will get Michigan State in 2019, Kansas in 2020, Duke in 2021 and Michigan State in 2022.

The event has been one of the most-watched collegiate events since its inception in 2011 with millions of fans tuning in every year. The series, which pits four programs that have a combined 18 national championships, 56 Final Four appearances and four Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame coaches, has been tightly bunched. Duke leads the pack with a 5-3 record, UK and Kansas are tied at 4-4, and Michigan State trails with a 3-5 mark.

Kentucky is also still a part of the CBS Sports Classic, which is currently under contract through 2019. UK will play North Carolina on Dec. 22 in Chicago as a part of that series and Ohio State on Dec. 21, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Green Transfers from Kentucky

Sophomore guard Quade Green decided in December to transfer from the University of Kentucky. He will play at Washington next season.

"I have loved my time at Kentucky and love Coach Cal and the staff," Green said. "This was a difficult decision and one I didn't take lightly. However, after talking with my family and the coaching staff, I just felt like it was best that I explore other opportunities for my athletic and academic future. I have enjoyed my time at Kentucky and I'll never forget the Big Blue Nation for its love and its support."

Green appeared in 43 games for the Wildcats over parts of two seasons, averaging 9.0 points and 2.6 assists per game. He was third on the 2017-18 team as a freshman with 41 3-pointers and had made 11 of 26 this season (42.3 percent).

The Philadelphia native started 13 of 34 games in 2017-18 and was averaging 17.8 minutes per game this season. He played a key role on the 2018 Southeastern Conference Tournament championship team, topping double figures 17 times, including six of his final 11 games played. He had three or more assists in 17 games last season. Green hit the game-winning layup in a comeback victory vs. Vanderbilt.

"I met with Quade yesterday and we talked through a lot of different things," UK men's basketball head coach John Calipari said. "The thing that struck me most is what a great kid Quade is. He felt like he was in a position that he couldn't overcome and he had the maturity to come in and sit down and talk through it with me.

"Quade has my full support with this decision. We haven't had many kids leave, but when we do, we always support them and, in just about every case, stay in touch with each other. I hope that will be the case with Quade."

Green scored in double figures in four games this season, including a season-high 17 points with three 3-pointers vs. VMI. He made a career-high four 3-pointers vs. Monmouth and dished out three or more assists in five games this season.

Tracking the Cats

Charges Drawn
- Quade Green - 2
- Keldon Johnson - 2
- Nick Richards - 2
- Immanuel Quickley - 1
- EJ Montgomery - 1
- PJ Washington - 1

First Sub
- Nick Richards - 16
- Immanuel Quickley - 14
- EJ Montgomery - 6
- Jemarl Baker Jr. - 4
- Quade Green - 4
- Ashton Hagans - 4
- Reid Travis - 3
- Keldon Johnson - 1

Five-Second Violations
- Forced by Kentucky - 2
- Forced by Opponent - 0

10-Second Violations
- Forced by Kentucky - 0
- Forced by Opponent - 1

Shot-Clock Violations
- Forced by Kentucky - 19
- Forced by Opponent - 11

Tipoffs
- Won by Kentucky - 14
- Won by Opponent - 19

Traditional 3-Point Plays
- Reid Travis - 13
- PJ Washington - 13
- Keldon Johnson - 10
- Ashton Hagans - 6
- Immanuel Quickley - 3
- Tyler Herro - 2
- Nick Richards - 2
- Quade Green - 1

Traditional 4-Point Plays
- Jemarl Baker Jr. - 1

KENTUCKY BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Opponent	Result	Points	Rebounds	Blocks	Steals	Assists
N.6	#4/3 Duke[1]	L, 118-84	Johnson - 23	Herro - 9	Herro - 2^	Johnson - 1	Herro - 5
N.9	**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**	W, 71-59	Two tied - 15	Richards - 19^	Richards - 3^	Quickley - 2	Two tied - 3
N.14	**NORTH DAKOTA[2]**	W, 96-59	Washington - 25^	Johnson - 10^	Two tied - 2^	Herro - 5^	Green - 5^
N.18	**VMI[2]**	W, 92-82	Travis - 22	Washington - 18^	Montgomery - 3^	Two tied - 2^	Hagans - 4^
N.21	**WINTHROP[2]**	W, 87-74	Washington - 19^	Washington - 11^	Two tied - 2^	Washington - 3^	Herro - 7^
N.23	**TENNESSEE STATE[2]**	W, 77-62	Johnson - 27^	Travis - 9^	Two tied - 2^	Washington - 2^	Green - 4^
N.28	**MONMOUTH**	W, 90-44	Herro - 16^	Two tied - 8^	Richards - 3^	Herro - 5^	Two tied - 3^
D.1	**UNC GREENSBORO**	W, 78-61	Travis - 22^	Travis - 12^	Four tied - 1	Hagans - 3^	Hagans - 3^
D.8	Seton Hall[3]	L, 84-83[OT]	Washington - 29^	Washington - 12^	Washington - 4^	Travis - 2	Two tied - 4
D.15	**UTAH**	W, 88-61	Johnson - 24^	Montgomery - 5	Washington - 3^	Two tied - 2^	Hagans - 7^
D.22	#9/10 North Carolina[4]	W, 80-72	Johnson - 21^	Washington - 10^	Two tied - 2^	Hagans - 8^	Washington - 8^
D.29	at rv/rv Louisville	W, 71-58	Herro - 24^	Washington - 8	Washington - 4^	Hagans - 3^	Two tied - 3
J. 5	at Alabama*	L, 77-75	Washington - 15	Two tied - 7	Richards - 1	Two tied - 3^	Hagans - 6^
J. 8	**TEXAS A&M***	W, 85-74	Herro - 21^	Johnson - 6	Two tied - 2^	Hagans - 5^	Hagans - 5^
J. 12	**VANDERBILT***	W, 56-47	Two tied - 15^	Travis - 12^	Travis - 2^	Hagans - 3^	Hagans - 4^
J. 15	at Georgia*	W, 69-49	Hagans - 23^	Two tied - 7	Richards - 3^	Hagans - 4^	Two tied - 4^
J. 19	at #14/12 Auburn*	W, 80-82	Two tied - 20	Three tied - 7	Two tied - 1	Hagans - 3^	Hagans - 6^
J. 22	**#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE**	W, 76-55	Washington - 21^	Travis -12	Washington - 4^	Johnson - 3^	Hagans - 9^
J. 26	**#9/10 KANSAS[5]**	W, 71-63	Washington - 20^	Washington - 13	Richards - 5^	Hagans - 3^	Hagans - 8^
J. 29	at Vanderbilt*	W, 87-52	Washington - 26^	Washington - 12^	Richards - 4^	Two tied - 3^	Hagans - 8^
F. 2	at Florida*	W, 65-54	Herro - 19^	Washington - 12^	Two tied - 1	Hagans - 2^	Hagans - 4^
F. 5	**SOUTH CAROLINA***	W, 76-48	Washington - 20^	Montgomery - 13^	Montgomery - 1^	Two tied - 3^	Two tied - 4^
F. 9	at rv/21 Mississippi State*	W, 71-67	Washington - 23^	Travis - 8^	Travis - 2^	Four tied - 1	Hagans - 9^
F. 12	**#19/21 LSU***	L, 73-71	Washington - 20^	Two tied - 9^	Herro - 1	Three tied - 1	Herro - 4
F. 16	**#1/1 TENNESSEE***	W, 86-69	Washington - 23^	Herro - 13^	Two tied - 2^	Two tied - 2^	Hagans - 7^
F. 19	at Missouri*	W, 66-58	Two tied - 18^	Washington - 8^	Montgomery - 2^	Three tied - 1	Washington - 3
F. 23	**rv/rv AUBURN***	W, 80-53	Washington - 24^	Johnson - 17^	Two tied - 3^	Montgomery - 2^	Two tied - 5^
F. 26	**ARKANSAS***	W, 70-66	Herro - 29^	Richards - 15^	Richards - 3^	Two tied - 2^	Hagans - 4^
M. 2	at #7/7 Tennessee*	L, 71-52	Washington - 13	Two tied - 7^	Richards - 3^	Three tied - 1	Two tied - 3
M. 5	at Ole Miss*	W, 80-76	Johnson - 22	Johnson - 7	Montgomery - 4^	Herro - 3^	Washington - 4^
M. 9	**nr/rv FLORIDA***	W, 66-57	Herro - 16	Washington - 9^	Two tied - 1	Three tied - 1^	Johnson - 3
M. 15	vs. Alabama[6]	W, 73-55	Herro - 20^	Washington - 12^	Washington - 4^	Johnson - 3^	Hagans - 6^
M. 16	vs. #8/8 Tennessee[6]	L, 82-78	Washington - 16	Two tied - 6	Two tied - 1^	Five tied - 1	Hagans - 12^

All games in **BOLD CAPS**; *SEC game, ^ game high
1 - Champions Classic (Bankers Life Fieldhouse | Indianapolis)
2 - Ohio Valley Hardwood Showcase (Rupp Arena)
3 - CITI Sports Classic (Madison Square Garden | New York)
4 - CBS Sports Classic (United Center | Chicago)
5 - SEC/BIG 12 Challenge (Rupp Arena)
6 - SEC Tournament (Bridgestone Arena | Nashville, Tenn.)

Times Led	Times Led	Times Led	Times Led	Times Led
Washington - 15	Washington - 15	Richards - 14	Hagans - 17	Hagans - 24
Herro - 9	Travis - 8	Montgomery - 13	Herro - 10	Herro - 5
Johnson - 8	Johnson - 7	Washington - 10	Johnson - 8	Washington - 5
Hagans - 2	Herro - 4	Travis - 5	Washington - 8	Green - 4
Travis - 2	Richards - 4	Herro - 3	Travis - 5	Johnson - 2
Quickley - 1	Montgomery - 2	Hagans - 1	Montgomery - 4	Quickley - 1
	Hagans - 1	Johnson - 1	Baker - 1	
			Green - 1	
			Quickley - 1	

Comparing the Calipari Era

A look at the statistics throughout the John Calipari era following 33 games ...

Year	FG%	Opp. FG%	3-Pt. FG%	FT%	RPG	Assists	TOs.	Blocks	Steals	Points	PPG	Record
2018-19	.478	.403	.364	.740	38.4	457	417	167	199	2,532	76.7	27-6
2017-18	.469	.407	.358	.693	38.8	447	433	160	185	2,532	76.7	23-10
2016-17	.477	.424	.353	.696	40.2	518	394	176	200	2,840	86.1	28-5
2015-16	.478	.399	.369	.684	38.9	477	363	186	182	2,627	79.6	25-8
2014-15	.468	.352	.344	.721	38.3	484	348	228	219	2,469	74.8	33-0
2013-14	.454	.403	.326	.679	41.3	382	403	204	158	2,521	76.4	24-9
2012-13	.475	.392	.346	.642	37.8	441	430	217	185	2,396	72.6	21-12
2011-12	.487	.366	.380	.723	39.2	438	378	291	209	2,543	77.1	32-1
2010-11	.460	.391	.397	.718	38.1	419	352	207	181	2,522	76.4	25-8
2009-10	.480	.380	.344	.680	41.5	484	484	240	236	2,619	79.4	31-2

MISCELLANEOUS STATS

Team Leaders

No.	Name	GAME LEADERS PTS.	REBS.	BLKS.	Assts.	STLS.	GAMES WITH 10+ Pts	20+ Pts	10+Rebs	3+Assts	3+Blks	3+Stls	3+3s	Double-double
0	Quade Green	- (3)	- (1)	-	4 (11)	1 (5)	5 (22)	- (1)	-	5 (22)	-	1 (1)	2 (6)	-
2	Ashton Hagans	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	24 (24)	17 (17)	11 (11)	1 (1)	-	26 (26)	-	10 (10)	-	1 (1)
3	Keldon Johnson	8 (8)	7 (7)	1 (1)	2 (2)	8 (8)	24 (24)	6 (6)	4 (4)	7 (7)	-	4 (4)	5 (5)	3 (3)
4	Nick Richards	- (1)	4 (12)	14 (26)	-	-	2 (9)	- (1)	2 (3)	-	8 (12)	-	-	- (1)
5	Immanuel Quickley	1 (1)	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	6 (6)	-	-	3 (3)	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	-
10	Jonny David	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Brad Calipari	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Jemarl Baker Jr.	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	-
14	Tyler Herro	9 (9)	4 (4)	3 (3)	5 (5)	10 (10)	27 (27)	6 (6)	1 (1)	13 (13)	-	4 (4)	9 (9)	1 (1)
21	Zan Payne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Reid Travis*	2 (38)	8 (57)	5 (16)	- (3)	5 (20)	15 (84)	4 (32)	4 (35)	1 (6)	1 (3)	1 (6)	- (1)	2 (28)
23	EJ Montgomery	-	2 (2)	13 (13)	-	4 (4)	2 (2)	-	1 (1)	-	3 (3)	-	-	1 (1)
25	PJ Washington	15 (21)	15 (23)	10 (21)	5 (8)	8 (18)	23 (46)	10 (12)	8 (11)	9 (17)	5 (7)	2 (5)	5 (5)	8 (11)

*Career total in (parentheses); *Includes Stanford career*

Starting Lineups

Guard	Guard	G/F	Forward	Forward	Games	W-L
Hagans	Herro	Johnson	Washington	Travis	20	15-5
Hagans	Herro	Johnson	Washington	Montgomery	4	4-0
Quickley	Herro	Johnson	Washington	Travis	4	4-0
Quickley	Herro	Johnson	Washington	Richards	2	2-0
Quickley	Herro	Johnson	Washington	Montgomery	1	1-0
Hagans	Herro	Johnson	Washington	Richards	1	0-1
Hagans	Herro	David	Washington	Montgomery	1	1-0

Starter	Games Started	Wins	Losses
David	1	1	0
Hagans	26	20	6
Herro	33	27	6
Johnson	32	26	6
Montgomery	6	6	0
Quickley	7	7	0
Richards	3	2	1
Travis	24	19	5
Washington	33	27	6

Kentucky's Record When

KENTUCKY RECORD	ALL	SEC
Leading at halftime:	20-3	10-2
Tied at the half:	0-0	0-0
Trailing at halftime:	7-3	5-1
Shoot 50% or better:	14-1	8-0
Shoot less than 50%:	13-5	7-3
Shoot higher % than opp.:	25-1	13-0
Shoot lower % than opp.:	2-5	2-3
Opp. shoot worse than 50%:	27-5	15-3
Opp. shoot 50% or higher:	0-1	0-0
Score less than 60 points:	1-1	1-1
Score 60-69 points:	4-0	4-0
Score 70-79 points:	10-3	4-2
Score 80-89 points:	9-2	6-0
Score 90-99 points:	3-0	0-0
Score 100+ points:	0-0	0-0
Opp. score less than 60 pts.:	14-0	9-0
Opp. score 60-69 pts.:	7-0	3-0
Opp. score 70-79 pts.:	4-3	2-3
Opp. score 80-89 points:	2-2	1-0
Opp. score 90-99 points:	0-0	0-0
Opp. score 100+ points:	0-1	0-0
Outrebounded opponent:	22-4	11-2
Outrebounded by opponent:	4-2	3-1
Equal number of rebounds:	1-0	1-0
Fewer turnovers than opp.:	11-2	5-1
Same turnovers as opp.:	4-0	1-0
More turnovers than opp.:	12-4	9-2
Make 8 or more 3-pointers:	6-0	3-0
Make 7 or fewer 3-pointers:	21-6	12-3
Games decided by 5 or fewer:	4-4	3-2
Overtime games:	0-1	0-0

KENTUCKY RECORD	ALL	SEC
On CBS:	4-1	3-1
On ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU:	12-4	8-2
On FOX:	0-1	0-0
On SEC Network/(+):	11-0	4-0
vs. SEC at home:	8-1	8-1
vs. SEC on road:	7-2	7-2
Games vs. AP ranked opp.:	5-4	3-2
Games following a loss:	5-0	3-0
Games following a win:	22-5	12-3
More points in the paint:	23-4	13-2
Fewer/Same points in the paint:	4-2	2-1
More bench points than opp.:	12-2	6-1
Fewer or same bench pts.:	15-4	9-2
More 2nd-chance points:	18-3	9-3
Fewer or same 2nd chance pts.:	9-3	6-0
More or same points off TOs:	19-1	11-1
Fewer points off TOs:	8-5	4-2
On Monday:	0-0	0-0
On Tuesday:	8-2	8-1
On Wednesday	3-0	0-0
On Thursday:	0-0	0-0
On Friday:	3-0	0-0
On Saturday:	12-4	7-2
On Sunday:	1-0	0-0
In November	6-1	0-0
In December	4-1	0-0
In January	7-1	6-1
In February	7-1	7-1
In March	3-2	2-1
In April	0-0	0-0

Streaks

Overall	Lost 1
Unranked AP teams anywhere	Won 13
Ranked AP teams anywhere	Lost 2
Home	Won 4
Home AP ranked teams	Won 1
Home AP unranked teams	Won 19
Home SEC	Won 4
Home nonconference	Won 18
Home AP ranked SEC	Won 1
Home AP unranked SEC	Won 11
Home AP ranked nonconference	Won 1
Home AP unranked nonconference	Won 51
Road	Won 1
Road AP ranked teams	Lost 1
Road AP unranked teams	Won 6
Road SEC	Won 1
Road nonconference	Won 2
Road AP ranked SEC	Lost 1
Road AP unranked SEC	Won 6
Road AP ranked nonconference	Won 1
Road AP unranked nonconference	Won 1
Neutral	Lost 1
Neutral AP ranked teams	Lost 1
Neutral AP unranked teams	Won 1
Neutral SEC	Lost 1
Neutral nonconference	Won 1
Neutral AP ranked SEC	Lost 1
Neutral AP unranked SEC	Won 12
Neutral AP ranked nonconference	Won 1
Neutral AP unranked nonconference	Lost 2

Active Consecutive Made Starts

PJ Washington	39
Tyler Herro	33
Ashton Hagans	25
Keldon Johnson	2
Reid Travis	1

Active Consecutive Made Free Throws

Tyler Herro	32
PJ Washington	7
Nick Richards	3
Jonny David	2
Keldon Johnson	1
Reid Travis	1

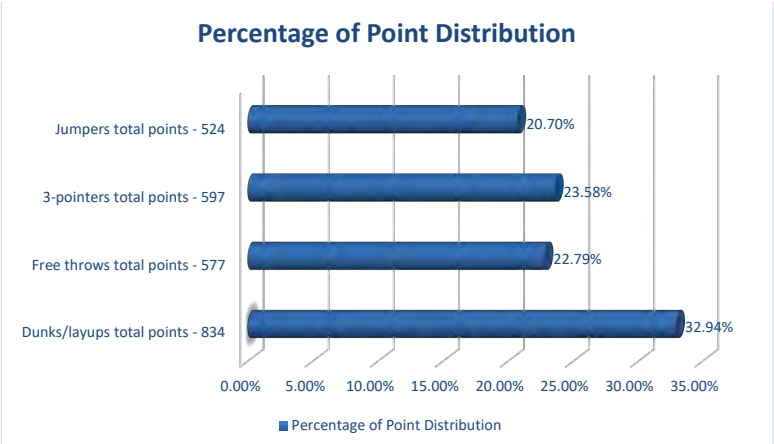
Active Consecutive Games with a 3-Pointer

Tyler Herro	2
Jemarl Baker Jr.	1
Ashton Hagans	1
Keldon Johnson	1
Reid Travis	1

Win-Loss Margins

Margin	Games Won	Games Lost
1		1
2	1	2
3		
4	3	1
5		
6		
7		
8	3	
9	2	
10	1	
11	2	
12	1	
13	2	
14		
15	1	
16		
17	2	
18	1	
19		1
20	1	
21	1	
22		
23		
24		
25+	6	1

How the Cats are Scoring



Dunk Tracker

Player	Dunks in 2018-19	Dunks in Career
PJ Washington	29	69
Nick Richards	22	50
Reid Travis	19	19 (UK only)
EJ Montgomery	18	18
Keldon Johnson	15	15
Tyler Herro	4	4
Ashton Hagans	3	3
Immanuel Quickley	1	1

Fast Facts

Shooting Percentage	.478
Avg. Assists Per Game	13.8
Points Off Turnovers	16.2
Second-Chance Points	11.5
Points in the Paint	34.1
Fast Break Points	9.5
Bench Points	17.2
Points Per Possession	1.128
Avg. Time of Possession	17.8

How UK Scored Its First Points

Player	Dunk/Layup	Jumper	3PT	FT
Hagans	1	1	1	
Herro	1	2	1	
Johnson	2	5	3	
Montgomery	1	1		
Quickley				1
Travis	1	2		1
Washington	3	1	3	2

THE LAST TIME UK ...

INDIVIDUALS

SCORING

Scored 25 points: Tyler Herro (29) vs. Arkansas, 2/26/19
Scored 30 points: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (30) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Scored 35 Points: De'Aaron Fox (39) vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Scored 40 points: Malik Monk (47) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Scored 45 points: Malik Monk (47) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Scored 50 points: Jodie Meeks (54) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Scored 55 points: Never
Two players had 20 points: Keldon Johnson (22), Tyler Herro (20), at Ole Miss, 3/5/19
Three players had 20 points: DeMarcus Cousins (27)/John Wall (21)/Patrick Patterson (20) vs. Sam Houston State, 11/19/09
Two players had 30 points: Patrick Patterson (33) and Jodie Meeks (32) vs. Tennessee State, 12/22/08
Scored 20 points in two straight games: PJ Washington (4) 2/5/19 - 2/16/19
Scored 20 points in three straight games: PJ Washington (4) 2/5/19 - 2/16/19
Scored 20 points in four straight games: PJ Washington (4) 2/5/19 - 2/16/19
Scored 20 points in five straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in six straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in seven straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in eight straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in nine straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 10 straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 11 straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 12 straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16
Scored 20 points in 15 straight games: Dan Issel (18) 12/1/69 - 2/7/70
Scored 25 points in three straight games: Tayshaun Prince (3) 3/11/01-3/17/01
Scored 30 points in two straight games: Jodie Meeks vs. Appalachian State (46) 12/20/08; vs. Tennessee State (32) 12/22/08
Scored 30 points in three straight games: Dan Issel (6) 2/14/70 - 3/2/70
Scored in double figures in 10 straight games: PJ Washington (12) 1/15/19-2/23/19
Scored in double figures in 15 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 20 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 25 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 30 straight games: Malik Monk (30) 11/11/16-2/28/17
Scored in double figures in 33 straight games: Jamal Murray (34) 11/17/15 - 3/19/16
Scored in double figures in 34 straight games: Jamal Murray (34) 11/17/15 - 3/19/16
Scored in double figures in 35 straight games: Kenny Walker (36) 11/14/85 - 3/22/86
Five players scored in double figures: PJ Washington (16), Keldon Johnson (15), Reid Travis (11), Tyler Herro (10), Ashton Hagans (10) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
Six players scored in double figures: Kevin Knox (21), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (14), Quade Green (12), PJ Washington (12), Hamidou Diallo (11), Jarred Vanderbilt (11) vs. Missouri, 2/24/18
Seven players scored in double figures: Randolph Morris (17), Kelenna Azubuike (15), Patrick Sparks (14), Chuck Hayes (12), Rajon Rondo (11), Ravi Moss (10) and Ramel Bradley (10) vs. Mississippi State 2/19/05,
Four players with 15 or more points: Kevin Knox (22), Quade Green (18), Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (17), Wenyen Gabriel (15) vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18

DOUBLE-DOUBLES

Double-double: Ashton Hagans (10 points, 12 assists) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
Triple-double: Isaiah Briscoe (19 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists) at Ole Miss, 12/29/16
20-10 (rebs) game: PJ Washington (26 points, 12 rebounds) at Vanderbilt, 1/29/19
20-10 (assts) game: De'Aaron Fox (24 points, 10 assists) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
20-15 game: Nick Richards (25 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Fort Wayne, 11/22/17
30-10 game: Tayshaun Prince (33 points, 11 rebounds) vs. Tennessee State, 12/22/98
Back-to-back 20-10 games: PJ Washington (20 p, 13 r) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19; (26 p, 12 r) at Vanderbilt, 1/29/19
Three straight 20-10 games: Julius Randle (3) 11/8/13 - 11/12/13
Double-double in points and rebs.: PJ Washington (10 points, 12 rebounds) vs. Alabama, 3/15/19
Double-double in points and assists: Ashton Hagans (10 points, 12 assists) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
Double-double in points and blocks: Never
Double-double in points and steals: Never
Double-double in two consecutive games: PJ Washington (20 p, 13 r) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19; (26 p, 12 r) at Vanderbilt, 1/29/19; (15 p, 12 r) at Florida, 2/2/19
Double-double in three consecutive games: PJ Washington (20 p, 13 r) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19; (26 p, 12 r) at Vanderbilt, 1/29/19; (15 p, 12 r) at Florida, 2/2/19
Double-double in four consecutive games: Julius Randle (19 p, 15 r) vs. Kansas State, 3/21/14; (13 p, 10 r), vs. Wichita State, 3/23/14; (15 p, 12 r), vs. Louisville, 3/28/14; (16 p, 11 r), vs. Michigan, 3/30/14
Double-double in five consecutive games: Julius Randle (14 p, 10 r) at Arkansas, (2/27/14); (10 p, 15 r) at South Carolina (3/1/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Alabama, (3/4/14); (16 p, 10 r) at Florida, (3/8/14); (17 p, 16 r) vs. LSU, (3/14/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Georgia, (3/15/14)
Double-double in six consecutive games: Julius Randle (14 p, 10 r) at Arkansas, (2/27/14); (10 p, 15 r) at South Carolina (3/1/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Alabama, (3/4/14); (16 p, 10 r) at Florida, (3/8/14); (17 p, 16 r) vs. LSU, (3/14/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Georgia, (3/15/14)
Double-double in seven consecutive games: Julius Randle (7) 11/18/13-11/27/13
Double-double in 10 consecutive games: Jim Andrews, 1972-73 season
Two players record double-doubles: PJ Washington (20 points, 13 rebounds), Reid Travis (18 points, 12 rebounds), Keldon Johnson (15 points, 10 rebounds) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19
Three players record double-doubles: PJ Washington (20 points, 13 rebounds), Reid Travis (18 points, 12 rebounds), Keldon Johnson (15 points, 10 rebounds) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19
Four players record double-doubles: Jack Givens (30 pts, 13 rebs)/Kyle Macy (16 pts, 10 assts)/Mike Phillips (22 pts, 18 rebs)/Rick Robey (23 pts, 13 rebs) vs. Southern Methodist, 11/26/77
Five players record double-doubles: Never

FIELD GOALS

Made 12 FG in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (12) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Made 15 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 16 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 17 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 18 FG in a game: Malik Monk (18) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 19 FG in a game: Dan Issel (19) vs. Alabama, 2/23/70
Made 20 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 21 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 22 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 23 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70
Made 24 FG in a game: Never
Attempted 17 FG in a game: Keldon Johnson (18) at Ole Miss, 3/5/19
Attempted 18 FG in a game: Keldon Johnson (18) at Ole Miss, 3/5/19
Attempted 19 FG in a game: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (19) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Attempted 20 FG in a game: De'Aaron Fox (20) vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Attempted 25 FG in a game: Malik Monk (28) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16

3-POINTERS

Made 5 3-pointers in a game: Tyler Herro (5) vs. Arkansas, 2/26/19
Made 6 3-pointers in a game: Keldon Johnson (6) vs. Utah, 12/15/18
Made 7 3-pointers in a game: Wenyen Gabriel (7) vs. Alabama, 3/10/18
Made 8 3-pointers in a game: Malik Monk (8) vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Made 9 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (10) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Made 10 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (10) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Made 11 3-pointers in a game: Never
Attempted 10 3-pointers in a game: Malik Monk (11) vs. Georgia, 1/31/17
Attempted 15 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (15) at Tennessee, 1/13/09
Attempted 16 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (16) vs. LSU 2/15/90
Attempted 17 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89
Attempted 18 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89
Attempted 19 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89
Attempted 20 3-pointers in a game: Never
Made a 3-pointer in 10 straight games: Kevin Knox (10), 2/10/18-3/11/18
Made a 3-pointer in 15 straight games: Jamal Murray (36), 11/13/15 - 3/19/16, Derek Willis (17), 1/12/16 - 3/17/16
Made a 3-pointer in 20 straight games: Jamal Murray (36), 11/13/15 - 3/19/16
Made a 3-pointer in 30 straight games: Jamal Murray (36), 11/13/15 - 3/19/16
Made two 3-pointers in 10 straight games: Kevin Knox (11), 2/10/16 - 3/11/18
Made three 3-pointers in 10 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03
Made three 3-pointers in 15 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03
Made three 3-pointers in 20 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03
Made three 3-pointers in 25 straight games: Keith Bogans (29) 3/14/02 - 2/26/03

FREE THROWS

Made 8 FT in a game: PJ Washington (9), at Tennessee, 3/2/19
Made 9 FT in a game: PJ Washington (9), at Tennessee, 3/2/19
Made 10 FT in a game: Ashton Hagans (10), vs. Texas A&M, 1/8/19
Made 11 FT in a game: PJ Washington (12), vs. Seton Hall, 12/8/18
Made 12 FT in a game: PJ Washington (12), vs. Seton Hall, 12/8/18
Made 13 FT in a game: Keldon Johnson (13), vs. Tennessee State, 11/23/18
Made 14 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (14) at Arkansas, 1/21/16
Made 15 FT in a game: Rodrick Rhodes (16) vs. Ole Miss 1/18/95
Made 16 FT in a game: Rodrick Rhodes (16) vs. Ole Miss 1/18/95
Made 17 FT in a game: Dwight Anderson (18) vs. Mississippi State 2/12/79
Made 18 FT in a game: Dwight Anderson (18) vs. Mississippi State 2/12/79
Made 18 FT in a game: Never
Attempted 10 FT in a game: PJ Washington (13), at Tennessee, 3/2/19
Attempted 15 FT in a game: Keldon Johnson (18), vs. Tennessee State, 11/23/18
Attempted 20 FT in a game: PJ Washington (20) vs. Kansas State, 3/22/18
Attempted 25 FT in a game: Never
Made 20 Straight FT: Tyler Herro (32), 2/16/19 - 3/15/19
Made 30 Straight FT: Tyler Herro (32), 2/16/19 - 3/15/19

REBOUNDS

15 Rebs: Nick Richards (15) vs. Arkansas, 2/26/19
16 Rebs: Keldon Johnson (17) vs. Auburn, 2/23/19
17 Rebs: Keldon Johnson (17) vs. Auburn, 2/23/19
18 Rebs: PJ Washington (18) vs. VMI, 11/18/18
19 Rebs: Nick Richards (19) vs. Southern Illinois, 11/9/18
20 Rebs: Jared Prickett (20) vs. Arkansas 2/9/94
25 Rebs: Mike Phillips (28) vs. Tennessee 1/10/76
30 Rebs: Cotton Nash (30) vs. Ole Miss 2/8/64
34 Rebs: Bob Burrow (34) vs. Temple 12/10/55
35 Rebs: Never
10+ Rebs in three consecutive games: PJ Washington (3) 1/26/19 - 2/2/19
10+ Rebs in four consecutive games: Julius Randle (4) 3/21/14 - 3/30/14
10+ Rebs in five consecutive games: Julius Randle (10)

THE LAST TIME UK ...

2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ Rebs in six consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ Rebs in seven consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ rebs in eight consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ rebs in nine consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
10+ rebs in 10 consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14
Two players had 10 rebounds: PJ Washington (13), Reid Travis (12), Keldon Johnson (10) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19
Three players had 10 rebounds: PJ Washington (13), Reid Travis (12), Keldon Johnson (10) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19

ASSISTS

6 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
7 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
8 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
9 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
10 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
11 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
12 assists: Ashton Hagans (12) vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
13 assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16
14 assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16
15 assists: John Wall (16) vs. Hartford, 12/29/09
16 assists: John Wall (16) vs. Hartford, 12/29/09
16 assists: Never
5+ assists in four consecutive games: Ashton Hagans (4) 1/19/19 - 1/29/19
8+ assists in two consecutive games: Ashton Hagans (3) 1/22/19 - 1/29/19

BLOCKS

4 blocks: PJ Washington (4) vs. Alabama, 3/15/19
5 blocks: Nick Richards (5) vs. Kansas, 1/26/19
6 blocks: Skal Labissiere (6) vs. Stony Brook, 3/17/16
7 blocks: Karl-Anthony Towns (7) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/20/15
8 blocks: Willie Cauley-Stein (9) vs. Boise State, 12/10/13
9 blocks: Willie Cauley-Stein (9) vs. Boise State, 12/10/13
10 blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
11 blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
12 blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
13 blocks: Never

STEALS

4 steals: Ashton Hagans (4) at Georgia, 1/15/19
5 steals: Ashton Hagans (5) vs. Texas A&M, 1/8/19
6 steals: Ashton Hagans (8) vs. North Carolina, 12/22/18
7 steals: Ashton Hagans (8) vs. North Carolina, 12/22/18
8 steals: Ashton Hagans (8) vs. North Carolina, 12/22/18
9 steals: Never
3+ steals in five consecutive games: Ashton Hagans (7) 12/22/18 - 1/19/19
3+ steals in 10 consecutive games: Never

MINUTES

Played every minute: PJ Washington (40) vs. Kansas State, 3/22/18
Played 40+ minutes: Keldon Johnson (43) vs. Seton Hall, 12/8/18
Played more than 50 minutes: Patrick Patterson (50) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/12/08

FOULS

Fouled out: Reid Travis vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
Two players fouled out: Jarred Vanderbilt, Wenyen Gabriel, at Texas A&M, 2/10/18
Three players fouled out: Hamidou Diallo, Wenyen Gabriel, Nick Richards at South Carolina, 1/16/18
Four players fouled out: Skal Labissiere, Marcus Lee, Alex Poythress, Derek Willis at Kansas, 1/30/16
Technical foul: Kentucky bench, vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19

TEAM

WINS/LOSSES

Won 10 straight games: 10, 1/8/19 - 2/9/19
Won 20 straight games: 38, 11/14/14 - 3/28/15
Won 30 straight games: 38, 11/14/14 - 3/28/15
Won 40 straight games: Never
Lost consecutive games: 4, 2/3/18 - 2/14/18
Lost three straight games: 4, 2/3/18 - 2/14/18
Lost four straight games: 4, 2/3/18 - 2/14/18
Lost five straight games: 5, 12/23/89 - 1/6/90
Lost 10 straight games: Never

STARTS

Started four freshmen: EJ Montgomery, Keldon Johnson, Ashton Hagans, Tyler Herro vs. Alabama, 3/15/19
Started five freshmen: Hamidou Diallo, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Kevin Knox, Nick Richards, PJ Washington vs. Kansas State, 3/22/18

SCORING

Scored 90 or more points: 92 vs. Monmouth, 11/28/18 (W, 90-44)
Scored 90 or more points (SEC game): 96 vs. Ole Miss, 2/28/18 (W, 96-78)
Scored 100 or more points: 107 vs. UIC, 11/26/17 (W, 107-73)
Scored 100 or more points (SEC game): 100 vs. Texas A&M, 1/3/17 (W, 100-58)
Scored 110 or more points: 115 vs. Arizona State, 11/28/16 (W, 115-69)
Scored 110 or more points (SEC game): 110 vs. Auburn, 2/21/15 (W, 110-75)
Scored 120 or more points: 120 vs. Vanderbilt, 2/7/96 (W, 120-81)
Scored 120 or more points (SEC game): 120 vs. Vanderbilt, 2/7/96 (W, 120-81)
Scored 130 or more points: 143 vs. Georgia, 2/27/56 (W, 143-66)
Scored 140 or more points: 143 vs. Georgia, 2/27/56 (W, 143-66)
Scored 150 or more points: Never
Scored less than 50 points: 48 vs. Vanderbilt, 3/15/13 (L, 64-48)
Scored 100 points in two consecutive games: vs. Cleveland State (11/23/16), vs. UT Martin (11/25/16), vs. Arizona State (11/28/16)
Scored 100 Points in three consecutive games: vs. Cleveland State (11/23/16), vs. UT Martin (11/25/16), vs. Arizona State (11/28/16)
Scored 100 points in consecutive SEC games: 2/27/56-3/3/56

SHOOTING PERCENTAGES

Shot 70% from the field: .722 vs. Mississippi St., 2/15/86
Shot 65% from the field: .667 vs. UIC, 11/26/17
Shot 30% or less from the field: .281 at Texas A&M (1/10/15)
Allowed 50% shooting: .544 vs. Duke, 11/6/18
Allowed 60% shooting: .640 by Florida, 3/4/07
Allowed 30% or less shooting: .276 by Monmouth, 11/28/18 (16-58)
Allowed 20% or less shooting: .197 by Montana State, 11/23/14 (12-61)

FREE THROWS

Shot 90% or better from FT line: 91.3 (21-23) vs. Texas A&M (1/8/19)
Shot 100% from FT Line: 11-11 vs. Florida, 2/7/12
Shot 50% or less from FT line: .471 (8-17) at Texas A&M, 2/10/18
Attempted 40 FT: vs. Tennessee State (41), 11/23/18
Attempted five or less FT: vs. South Carolina (4) 1/21/06
Made 30 FT: 30 vs. Auburn, 3/14/15 (30-35)

3-POINTERS

Hit 0 3-pointers: 0 vs. Davidson, 3/15/18 (0-6)
Hit 10 3-pointers: 11 vs. Auburn, 2/23/19 (11-24)
Hit 11 3-pointers: 11 vs. Auburn, 2/23/19 (11-24)
Hit 12 3-pointers: 12 vs. Utah, 12/15/18 (12-21)
Hit 13 3-pointers: 13 vs. Texas A&M, 1/3/17 (13-25)
Hit 14 3-pointers: 15 vs. Georgia, 3/1/12 (15-27)
Hit 15 3-pointers: 15 vs. Georgia, 3/1/12 (15-27)
Hit 16 3-pointers: 16 vs. UNC-Asheville, 12/23/96 (16-33)
Hit 17 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 18 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 19 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 20 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 21 3-pointers: 21 vs. North Carolina, 12/27/89 (21-48)
Hit 22 3-pointers: Never

SCORING MARGINS

Won game by 50 points or more: 58 vs. Montana State (W, 86-28) 11/23/14
Won game by 60 points or more: 62 vs. Vanderbilt (W, 106-44) 3/5/03
Won game by 70 points or more: 74 vs. Tennessee-Martin (W, 124-50) 11/26/94
Lost game by 30 points or more: 34 vs. Duke (L, 118-84) 11/6/18
Lost game by 40 points or more: 41 at Vanderbilt (L, 93-52) 2/12/08
Lost game by 50 points or more: 55 at Kansas (L, 150-95) 12/9/89
Lost game by 60 points or more: 70 vs. Central (L, 87-17) 1/28/1910
Lost game by 70 points or more: 70 vs. Central (L, 87-17) 1/28/1910
Game decided by one point: vs. Seton Hall, 12/8/18 (L, 84-83 OT)
Game decided by two points: vs. LSU, 2/11/19 (L, 73-71)
Game decided by three points: vs. Kansas State, 3/22/18 (L, 61-58)
Two consecutive games decided by one point: vs. North Carolina (W, 73-72) 12/3/11 and at Indiana (L, 73-72) 12/10/11
Three consecutive games decided by one point: Never
Two consecutive games decided by two points: at Ole Miss (L, 71-69) 2/1/11 and Florida (L, 70-68) 2/5/11

Came back from 10-point deficit for win: W, 70-66 vs. Arkansas (2/26/19); Trailed by 15 at 45-30 (18:22 in 2nd)
Came back from 11-point deficit for win: W, 70-66 vs. Arkansas (2/26/19); Trailed by 15 at 45-30 (18:22 in 2nd)
Came back from 12-point deficit for win: W, 70-66 vs. Arkansas (2/26/19); Trailed by 15 at 45-30 (18:22 in 2nd)
Came back from 13-point deficit for win: W, 70-66 vs. Arkansas (2/26/19); Trailed by 15 at 45-30 (18:22 in 2nd)
Came back from 14-point deficit for win: W, 70-66 vs. Arkansas (2/26/19); Trailed by 15 at 45-30 (18:22 in 2nd)
Came back from 15-point deficit for win: W, 70-66 vs. Arkansas (2/26/19); Trailed by 15 at 45-30 (18:22 in 2nd)
Came back from 16-point deficit for win: W, 83-76 at West Virginia (1/27/18); Trailed by 17 at 40-23 (18:57 in 2nd))
Came back from 17-point deficit for win: W, 83-76 at West Virginia (1/27/18); Trailed by 17 at 40-23 (18:57 in 2nd)
Came back from 18-point deficit for win: W, 73-67 vs. Vanderbilt (2/28/17); Trailed by 19 at 25-6 (8:03 in 1st)
Came back from 19-point deficit for win: W, 73-67 vs. Vanderbilt (2/28/17); Trailed by 19 at 25-6 (8:03 in 1st)
Came back from 20-point deficit for win: W, 82-79 at Vanderbilt (2/22/97); Trailed by 22 at 40-18 (3:51 in 1st)
Came back from 30-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed by 31 at 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)
Came back from 31-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed by 31 at 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)

REBOUNDS

Pulled down 50 rebounds: 50 (21-29) vs. South Carolina, 2/5/19
Pulled down 55 rebounds: 59 (20-39) vs. Arizona State, 11/28/16
Pulled down 60 rebounds: 62 (19-43) vs. Morehead State, 12/16/96

OVERTIME GAMES

Played an overtime game: vs. Seton Hall, 12/8/18 (L, 84-83 OT)
Won an overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Played an SEC overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Won an SEC overtime game: vs. Vanderbilt, 1/30/18 (W, 83-81 OT)
Lost an overtime game: vs. Seton Hall, 12/8/18 (L, 84-83 OT)
Lost an SEC overtime game: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77 OT)
Played an overtime game in SEC Tournament: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Won an overtime game in SEC Tournament: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Played two overtimes: at Texas A&M, 1/10/15 (W, 70-64 2ot)
Played three overtimes: vs. Temple 12/7/57 (W, 85-83)
Played four overtimes: Never played four overtime game
Played consecutive games that went to overtime: 1/6/15 vs. Ole Miss (W, 89-86) and 1/10/15 at Texas A&M (70-64)

THE LAST TIME A UK OPPONENT ...

INDIVIDUALS

SCORING

Scored 25 points: Terence Davis (25), Ole Miss, 3/5/19
Scored 30 points: Bubba Parham (35), VMI, 11/21/18
Scored 35 Points: Bubba Parham (35), VMI, 11/21/18
Scored 40 points: Elston Turner (40), Texas A&M, 1/12/13
Scored 45 points: David Robinson (45), Navy, 1/25/87
Scored 50 points: Austin Carr (50), Notre Dame, 12/29/79
Scored 60 points: Pete Maravich (64), LSU, 2/21/70
Scored 65 points: Never
Two players had 20 points: Admiral Schofield (21), Grant Williaism (20), Tennessee, 3/16/19
Three players had 20 points: R.J. Barrett, Zion Williamson, Cam Reddish, Duke, 11/6/18
Two players had 30 points: Ronnie Henderson (36) and Claren Ceasar (32), LSU, 2/15/94
Five players scored in double figures: Alabama, 1/5/19

FIELD GOALS

Made 15 FG in a game: David Robinson (17), Navy, 1/25/87
Made 16 FG in a game: David Robinson (17), Navy, 1/25/87
Made 17 FG in a game: David Robinson (17), Navy, 1/25/87
Made 18 FG in a game: Steve Downing (19), Indiana, 12/11/71
Made 19 FG in a game: Steve Downing (19), Indiana, 12/11/71
Made 20 FG in a game: Johnny Neumann (20), Ole Miss, 1/2/71
Made 21 FG in a game: Austin Carr (21), Notre Dame, 12/29/70
Made 22 FG in a game: Austin Carr (22). Notre Dame, 3/12/70
Made 23 FG in a game: Pete Maravich (23), LSU, 2/21/70
Made 24 FG in a game: Never
Attempted 17 FG in a game: Admiral Schofield (18), Tennessee, 3/16/19
Attempted 18 FG in a game: Admiral Schofield (18), Tennessee, 3/16/19
Attempted 19 FG in a game: Bubba Parham (20), VMI, 11/28/18
Attempted 20 FG in a game: Bubba Parham (20), VMI, 11/28/18
Attempted 25 FG in a game: R.J. Barrett (26), Duke, 11/6/18
Attempted 30 FG in a game: Freeman Williams (40), Portland State, 12/16/17
Attempted 35 FG in a game: Freeman Williams (40), Portland State, 12/16/17
Attempted 40 FG in a game: Freeman Williams (40), Portland State, 12/16/17
Attempted 45 FG in a game: Johnny Neumann (50), Ole Miss, 1/2/71
Attempted 50 FG in a game: Johnny Neumann (50), Ole Miss, 1/2/71
Attempted 53 FG in a game: Pete Maravich (53), LSU, 2/22/69
Attempted 54 FG in a game: Never

3-POINTERS

Made 5 3-pointers in a game: Jordan Bone (5), Tennessee, 3/2/19
Made 6 3-pointers in a game: Bryce Brown (6), Auburn, 1/19/19
Made 7 3-pointers in a game: Bubba Parham (10), VMI, 11/18/18
Made 8 3-pointers in a game: Bubba Parham (10), VMI, 11/18/18
Made 9 3-pointers in a game: Bubba Parham (10), VMI, 11/18/18
Made 10 3-pointers in a game: Bubba Parham (10), VMI, 11/18/18
Made 11 3-pointers in a game: Corey Allmond (11), Sam Houston State, 11/19/2009
Made 12 3-pointers in a game: Never
Attempted 10 3-pointers in a game: Myles Powell (11), Seton Hall, 12/8/18
Attempted 15 3-pointers in a game: Bubba Parham (16), VMI, 11/18/18
Attempted 16 3-pointers in a game: Bubba Parham (16), VMI, 11/18/18
Attempted 17 3-pointers in a game: Chris Jackson (17), LSU, 2/15/90
Attempted 18 3-pointers in a game: Jeff Boschee (18), Kansas, 3/14/99
Attempted 19 3-pointers in a game: Never

FREE THROWS

Made 10 FT in a game: Jeff Roberson (10), Vanderbilt, 1/30/18
Made 11 FT in a game: J.J. Frazier (12), Georgia, 2/18/17
Made 12 FT in a game: J.J. Frazier (12), Georgia, 2/18/17
Made 13 FT in a game: Sindarius Thornwell (14), South Carolina, 1/21/17
Made 14 FT in a game: Sindarius Thornwell (14), South Carolina, 1/21/17
Made 15 FT in a game: Brenton Williams (15), South Carolina, 3/1/14
Made 16 FT in a game: Dan Cross (16), Florida, 2/18/95
Made 17 FT in a game: John Mengelt (17), Auburn, 3/2/70
Made 18 FT in a game: Pete Maravich (18), LSU, 2/21/70
Made 19 FT in a game: Never
Attempted 10 FT in a game: Grant Williams (11), Tennessee, 3/16/19
Attempted 15 FT in a game: J.J. Frazier (15), Georgia, 2/18/17
Attempted 20 FT in a game: Harding McCaleb (25), Louisville, 2/22/16
Attempted 25 FT in a game: Harding McCaleb (25), Louisville, 2/22/16
Attempted 26 FT in a game: Never

REBOUNDS

15 Rebs: Dedric Lawson (15), Kansas, 1/26/19
16 Rebs: Kennedy Meeks (17), North Carolina, 3/26/17
17 Rebs: Kennedy Meeks (17), North Carolina, 3/26/17
18 Rebs: Sean May (19), North Carolina, 12/4/04
19 Rebs: Sean May (19), North Carolina, 12/4/04
20 Rebs: Andrew DeClercq (20), Florida, 1/18/94
25 Rebs: Leon Douglas (25), Alabama, 1/20/75
30 Rebs: Kenneth Stanley (30), USC, 12/4/61
31 Rebs: Never
Two players had 10 rebounds: Desean Murray (11) and Anfernee McLemore (11), Auburn, 2/4/18
Three players had 10 rebounds: Craig Victor II (12), Tim Quarterman (10), Ben Simmons (10), LSU, 1/5/16

ASSISTS

10 assists: Tonny Trocha-Morelos (10), Texas A&M, 3/4/2017
11 assists: Dwyane Wade (11), Marquette, 3/29/03
12 assists: Edgar Padilla (12), UMass, 3/30/96
13 assists: Billy McCaffrey (14), Vanderbilt, 1/13/93
14 assists: Billy McCaffrey (14), Vanderbilt, 1/13/93
15 assists: Eric Richardson (15), Alabama, 2/4/84
16 assists: Never

BLOCKS

5 blocks: Akolda Manyang (5), Utah Valley, 11/10/17
6 blocks: Sagaba Konate (7), West Virginia, 1/27/18
7 blocks: Sagaba Konate (7), West Virginia, 1/27/18
8 blocks: Jarvis Varnado (10), Mississippi State, 1/15/08
9 blocks: Jarvis Varnado (10), Mississippi State, 1/15/08
10 blocks: Jarvis Varnado (10), Mississippi State, 1/15/08
11 blocks: Samaki Walker (11), Louisville, 1/1/95
12 blocks: Never

STEALS

5 steals: Ben Simmons (7), LSU, 3/5/16
6 steals: Ben Simmons (7), LSU, 3/5/16
7 steals: Ben Simmons (7), LSU, 3/5/16
8 steals: Never

TEAM

SCORING

Scored 90 or more points: 118, Duke, 11/6/18 (L, 118-84)
Scored 90 or more points (SEC game): 90, Georgia, 3/4/09 (L, 90-85)
Scored 100 or more points: 118, Duke, 11/6/18 (L, 118-84)
Scored 100 or more points (SEC game): 101, Arakansas, 2/10/93 (L, 101-94)
Scored 110 or more points: 118, Duke, 11/6/18 (L, 118-84)
Scored 110 or more points (SEC game): 110, Vanderbilt, 3/4/67 (L, 110-94)
Scored 120 or more points: 121, North Carolina, 12/27/89 (L, 121-110)
Scored 120 or more points (SEC game): Never
Scored 130 or more points: 150, Kansas, 12/9/89 (L, 150-95)
Scored 140 or more points: 150, Kansas, 12/9/89 (L, 150-95)
Scored 150 or more points: 150, Kansas, 12/9/89 (L, 150-95)
Scored 160 or more points: Never
Scored less than 50 points: 48, South Carolina, 2/5/19 (W, 76-48)
Scored less than 50 points (SEC game): 48, South Carolina, 2/5/19 (W, 76-48)
Scored less than 40 points: 39, West Virginia, 3/26/15 (W, 78-39)
Scored less than 40 points (SEC game): 37, Missouri, 1/13/15 (W, 86-37)
Scored less than 30 points: 28, Montana State, 11/23/14 (W, 86-28)
Scored less than 30 points (SEC game): 26, Georgia Tech, 1/28/46 (W, 86-37)
Scored less than 20 points: 18, Western Ontario, 12/10/49 (W, 90-21)
Scored less than 20 points (SEC game): 18, Alabama, 2/10/40 (W, 46-18)
Scored less than 10 points: 9, Tulane, 12/21/34 (W, 39-9)
Scored less than 10 points (SEC game): Never
Scored less than 5 points: Never

SHOOTING PERCENTAGES

Shot 70% from the field: Never
Shot 60% from the field: .640, Florida, 3/4/07
Shot 50% from the field: .544, Duke, 11/6/18
Shot 30% or less from the field: .276, Monmouth, 11/28/18 (16-58)
Shot 20% or less from the field: .197, Montana State, 11/23/14 (12-61)
Shot 10% or less from the field: Never (shooting percentages not recorded prior to 1947)

3-Pointers

Made 10 or more 3-pointer: 10, Tennessee, 3/16/19
Made 15 or more 3-pointers: 19, VMI, 11/18/18
Made 20 or more 3-pointers: Never
Made zero 3-pointers: 0, Auburn, 1/19/13 (0-15)

FREE THROWS

Shot 90% or better from FT line: 90.9 (20-22), Ole Miss, 3/5/19
Shot 100% from FT Line: 5-5, VMI, 11/18/18
Shot 50% or less from FT line: .357 (5-14), South Carolina, 2/5/19
Attempted 40 FT: 47, Kansas, 1/30/16 (30-47)
Attempted five or less FT: 5, VMI, 11/18/18 (5-5)
Made 30 FT: 30, Tennessee, 2/2/16 (30-34)

REBOUNDS

Pulled down 50 rebounds: 54 (17-37), Florida, 2/4/17

RUPP ARENA

Year-by-Year Records

Season	W-L	Percetange
2018-19	17-1	.944
2017-18	16-2	.889
2016-17	15-2	.882
2015-16	17-0	1.000
2014-15	19-0	1.000
2013-14	16-2	.889
2012-13	16-2	.889
2011-12	18-0	1.000
2010-11	15-0	1.000
2009-10	18-0	1.000
2008-09	12-6	.667
2007-08	14-4	.778
2006-07	14-2	.875
2005-06	10-5	.667
2004-05	14-1	.933
2003-04	11-2	.846
2002-03	12-1	.923
2001-02	12-3	.800
2000-01	11-1	.917
1999-2000	14-0	1.000
1998-99	12-1	.923
1997-98	9-3	.750
1996-97	12-1	.923
1995-96	13-0	1.000
1994-95	12-1	.923
1993-94	13-1	.929
1992-93	16-0	1.000
1991-92	15-2	.882
1990-91	13-0	1.000
1989-90	13-2	.867
1988-89	8-6	.571
1987-88	14-2	.875
1986-87	13-2	.867
1985-86	18-0	1.000
1984-85	11-3	.786
1983-84	16-0	1.000
1982-83	14-1	.933
1981-82	15-1	.938
1980-81	15-0	1.000
1979-80	12-3	.800
1978-79	11-4	.733
1977-78	16-0	1.000
1976-77	12-2	.857
Total	**594-69**	**.896**

Top 10 All-Time Attendances

No.	Att.	Opp.	Date	Result
1.	24,479	Louisville	1/20/10	W, 71-62
2.	24,468	N. Carolina	12/5/09	W, 68-66
3.	24,467	Tennessee	2/16/19	W, 86-69
4.	24,465	Florida	2/10/07	L, 64-61
5.	24,459	Florida	2/4/03	W, 70-55
6.	24,456	Florida	3/9/19	W, 66-57
7.	24,432	Louisville	12/17/05	W, 73-61
8.	24,431	Florida	2/25/17	W, 76-66
9.	24,428	Florida	3/7/15	W, 67-50
10.	24,425	Florida	2/15/14	L, 69-59

Top 10 Attendances of 18-19

No.	Att.	Opp.	Date	Result
1.	24,467	Tennessee	2/16/19	W, 86-69
2.	24,456	Florida	3/9/19	W, 66-57
3.	24,387	Kansas	1/26/19	W, 71-63
4.	23,490	LSU	2/12/19	L, 73-71
5.	23,427	Auburn	2/23/19	W, 80-53
6.	22,504	Vanderbilt	1/12/19	W, 56-47
7.	22,048	Texas A&M	1/8/19	W, 85-74
8.	21,998	Arkansas	2/26/19	W, 70-66
9.	21,922	Utah	12/15/18	W, 88-61
10.	21,853	UNCG	12/1/18	W, 78-61

Cats Rock at Rupp

The Wildcats are 594-69 (.896) in Rupp Arena. Among the most notable marks of dominance as the nation's toughest venue to play include:

- A school record 54-game winning streak to begin the John Calipari era
- The Wildcats are 317-43 (.881) in regular-season SEC games in the building
- Kentucky set a new program home record of 19 wins in 2014-15
- The Wildcats have gone undefeated at home in five of John Calipari's 10 seasons
- Overall, UK has posted a perfect mark in 13 of Rupp Arena's 42 seasons

Cal Owns Longest Win Streaks in Rupp

With UK's 2011-12 season-opening victory over Marist, UK head coach John Calipari recorded his 34th consecutive win in Rupp Arena as UK's head coach. It broke former UK head coach Rick Pitino's longest streak of 33 games in the venue.

The winning streak reached as long as 54 games. Calipari didn't suffer his first loss in Rupp Arena until losing to Baylor in his fourth season. The 54-game run, however, was his longest career winning streak. He also had the second-longest streak in the arena as the Cats won 42 straight from March 4, 2014 to Nov. 25, 2016.

Pack the House

Kentucky has led the nation in average home attendance in 20 of the last 24 seasons. That number includes a Rupp Arena record of 24,110 in John Calipari's first season (2009-10) as head coach.

- Kentucky averaged 21,695 fans during the 2017-18 season
- UK has averaged 23,000 or more fans in seven of Calipari's 10 complete seasons
- The Wildcats led the nation in average attendance in 2017-18

The Top-Ranked Team at Home

Kentucky has lost just three times at home as the Associated Press top-ranked team in the history of the program and just twice in Rupp Arena. Prior to the loss to UCLA by three on Dec. 3, 2016, the other two losses came by just one point.

The Wildcats are 53-2 all-time as the AP No. 1 team in Rupp Arena since its opening in 1976. The first loss was to Auburn, 53-52, on Jan. 9, 1988.

Coach Cal in Rupp Arena

It's been downright difficult to beat the Wildcats in Rupp Arena during the John Calipari era. UK is 167-9 (.949) in Rupp Arena under Calipari.

- UK is 20-5 (.800) vs. ranked opponents in Rupp in the Calipari era
- The Wildcats are 147-4 (.974) vs. unranked teams in Rupp under Cal
- UK is 86-3 (.966) at home vs. nonconference foes under Calipari
- Calipari notched his 100th career win in Rupp Arena as UK's coach with the Wildcats' 110-75 rout of Auburn on Feb. 21, 2014. It took Calipari just 104 games to reach the century mark at home, the fastest of any UK coach

Cal Passes Hall for Rupp Record

With a 101-70 victory over Cleveland State on Nov. 23, 2016, John Calipari passed former UK head coach Joe B. Hall for wins in Rupp Arena history.

Calipari currently has 167 victories inside the historic venue. Hall won 122.

Rupp Arena Quick Facts

Year Opened:	1976
First Game:	Nov. 27, 1976
All-Time Record:	594-69 (89.6)
Record Under Calipari:	167-9 (94.9)
Capacity:	23,000
Record Crowd:	24,479 (1/20/10)
Longest Winning Streak:	54 (11/9/10-12/1/12)
Current Winning Streak:	4

2018-19 Opponent Breakdown

Southern Illinois (Nov. 9)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. SIU: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 71-59 (11/9/18)

North Dakota (Nov. 14)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. NDU: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 96-58 (11/14/18)

VMI (Nov. 18)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Three
UK record in Rupp vs. VMI: 2-1
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 92-82 (11/18/08)

Winthrop (Nov. 21)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Three
UK record in Rupp vs. WU: 3-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 87-74 (11/21/18)

Tennessee State (Nov. 23)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Four
UK record in Rupp vs. TSU: 4-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 77-62 (11/23/18)

Monmouth (Nov. 28)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. MU: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 90-44 (11/28/18)

UNC Greensboro (Nov. 23)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: One
UK record in Rupp vs. UNCG: 1-0
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 78-61 (12/1/18)

Utah (Dec. 15)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Three
UK record in Rupp vs. Utah: 2-1
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 88-61 (12/15/18)

Texas A&M (Jan. 8)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Six
UK record in Rupp vs. TAMU: 4-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 85-74 (1/8/19)

Vanderbilt (Jan. 12)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 41
UK record in Rupp vs. VU: 39-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 56-47 (1/12/19)

Mississippi State (Jan. 22)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 30
UK record in Rupp vs. MSU: 28-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 76-55 (1/22/19)

Kansas (Jan. 26)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: Seven
UK record in Rupp vs. KU: 5-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 71-63 (1/29/19)

South Carolina (Feb. 5)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 27
UK record in Rupp vs. USC: 25-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 76-48 (2/5/19)

LSU (Feb. 12)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 32
UK record in Rupp vs. LSU: 26-6
Last time in Rupp Arena: LSU, 73-71 (2/12/19)

Tennessee (Feb. 16)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 43
UK record in Rupp vs. UT: 38-5
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 86-69 (2/16/19)

Auburn (Feb. 23)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 30
UK record in Rupp vs. AU: 28-2
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 80-53 (2/23/19)

Arkansas (Feb. 26)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 16
UK record in Rupp vs. UA: 13-3
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 70-66 (2/26/19)

Florida (Jan. 20)
All-time games in Rupp Arena: 43
UK record in Rupp vs. UF: 35-8
Last time in Rupp Arena: UK, 66-57 (1/20/18)

COACH CALIPARI

UK vs. AP Ranked Foes Under Cal

In John Calipari Era (2009-Present)

57-30

vs. No. 8 Tennessee	March 16, 2019	L, 82-78
at No. 7 Tennessee	March 2, 2019	L, 71-52
vs. No. 1 Tennessee	Feb. 16, 2019	W, 86-69
vs. No. 19 LSU	Feb. 13, 2019	L, 73-71
vs. No. 9 Kansas	Jan. 26, 2019	W, 71-63
vs. No. 22 Mississippi State	Jan. 22, 2019	W, 76-55
at No. 14 Auburn	Jan. 19, 2019	W, 82-80
vs. No. 9 North Carolina (Chicago)	Dec. 22, 2018	W, 80-72
vs. No. 4 Duke (Indianapolis)	Nov. 6, 2018	L, 118-84
vs. No. 13 Tennessee (SECT)	March 11, 2018	W, 77-72
at No. 10 Auburn	Feb. 14, 2018	L, 76-66
vs. No. 15 Tennessee	Feb. 6, 2018	L, 61-59
at No. 7 West Virginia	Jan. 27, 2018	W, 83-76
at No. 23 Tennessee	Jan. 6, 2018	L, 76-65
vs. No. 4 Kansas (Chicago)	Nov. 14, 2017	L, 65-61
vs. No. 6 North Carolina (NCAA)	March 26, 2017	L, 75-73
vs. No. 8 UCLA (NCAA)	March 24, 2017	W, 86-75
vs. No. 19 Wichita St. (NCAA)	March 19, 2017	W, 65-62
vs. No. 13 Florida	Feb. 25, 2017	W, 76-66
at No. 24 Florida	Feb. 4, 2017	L, 88-66
vs. No. 2 Kansas	Jan. 28, 2017	L, 79-73
vs. No. 24 South Carolina	Jan. 21, 2017	W, 85-69
at No. 10 Louisville	Dec. 21, 2016	L, 73-70
vs. No. 7 North Carolina (Las Vegas)	Dec. 17, 2016	W, 103-100
vs. No. 11 UCLA	Dec. 3, 2016	L, 97-92
vs. No. 13 Michigan St. (New York)	Nov. 15, 2016	W, 69-48
vs. No. 14 Indiana (NCAA)	March 19, 2016	L, 73-67
vs. No. 17 Texas A&M (SECT)	March 13, 2016	W, 82-77
at No. 4 Kansas	Jan. 30, 2016	L, 90-84
vs. No. 16 Louisville	Dec. 27, 2015	W, 75-73
vs. No. 5 Duke (Chicago)	Nov. 17, 2015	W, 74-63
vs. No. 3 Wisconsin (NCAA)	April 4, 2015	L, 71-64
vs. No. 8 Notre Dame (NCAA)	March 28, 2015	W, 68-66
vs. No. 20 West Virginia (NCAA)	March 26, 2015	W, 78-39
vs. No. 21 Arkansas (SECT)	March 15, 2015	W, 78-63
vs. No. 18 Arkansas	Feb. 28, 2015	W, 84-67
at No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 27, 2014	W, 58-50
vs. No. 21 North Carolina	Dec. 13, 2014	W, 84-70
vs. No. 6 Texas	Dec. 5, 2014	W, 63-51
vs. No. 5 Kansas (Indianapolis)	Nov. 18, 2014	W, 72-40
vs. No. 18 UConn (NCAA)	April 7, 2014	L, 60-54
vs. No. 12 Wisconsin (NCAA)	April 5, 2014	W, 74-73
vs. No. 7 Michigan (NCAA)	March 30, 3014	W, 75-72
vs. No. 5 Louisville (NCAA)	March 28, 2014	W, 74-69
vs. No. 2 Wichita St. (NCAA)	March 23, 2014	W, 78-76
vs. No. 1 Florida (SECT)	March 16, 2014	L, 61-60
at No. 1 Florida	March 8, 2014	L, 84-65
vs. No. 3 Florida	Feb. 15, 2014	L, 69-59
vs. No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 28, 2013	W, 73-66
at No. 18 North Carolina	Dec. 14, 2013	L, 82-77
vs. No. 20 Baylor (Dallas)	Dec. 6, 2013	L, 67-62
vs. No. 2 Michigan St. (Chicago)	Nov. 12, 2013	L, 78-74
vs. No. 11 Florida	March 9, 2013	W, 61-57
at No. 7 Florida	Feb. 12, 2013	L, 69-52
at No. 16 Ole Miss	Jan. 29, 2013	W, 87-74
at No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 29, 2012	L, 80-77
vs. No. 9 Duke (Atlanta)	Nov. 13, 2012	L, 75-68
vs. No. 6 Kansas (NCAA)	April 2, 2012	W, 67-59
vs. No. 17 Louisville (NCAA)	March 31, 2012	W, 69-61
vs. No. 9 Baylor (NCAA)	March 25, 2012	W, 82-70
vs. No. 16 Indiana (NCAA)	March 23, 2012	W, 87-71
vs. No. 22 Florida (SECT)	March 10, 2012	W, 74-71
at No. 16 Florida	March 4, 2012	W, 74-59
vs. No. 8 Florida	Feb. 7, 2012	W, 78-58
vs. No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 31, 2011	W, 69-62
vs. No. 5 North Carolina	Dec. 3, 2011	W, 73-72
vs. No. 12 Kansas (New York)	Nov. 15, 2011	W, 75-65
vs. No. 9 UConn (NCAA)	April 2, 2011	L, 56-55
vs. No. 7 North Carolina (NCAA)	March 27, 2011	W, 76-69
vs. No. 1 Ohio State (NCAA)	March 25, 2011	W, 62-60
vs. No. 22 West Virginia (NCAA)	March 19, 2011	W, 71-63
vs. No. 12 Florida (SECT)	March 13, 2011	W, 70-54
vs. No. 21 Vanderbilt	March 1, 2011	W, 68-66
vs. No. 13 Florida	Feb. 26, 2011	W, 76-68
at No. 21 Vanderbilt	Feb. 12, 2011	L, 81-77
at No. 22 Louisville	Dec. 31, 2010	W, 78-63
vs. No. 23 Notre Dame (Louisville)	Dec. 8, 2010	W, 72-58
vs. No. 13 Washington (Maui)	Nov. 23, 2010	W, 74-67
vs. No. 6 West Virginia (NCAA)	March 27, 2010	L, 73-66
vs. No. 15 Tennessee (SECT)	March 13, 2010	W, 74-45
at No. 19 Tennessee	Feb. 27, 2010	L, 74-65
at No. 17 Vanderbilt	Feb. 20, 2010	W, 58-56
vs. No. 12 Tennessee	Feb. 13, 2010	W, 73-62
vs. No. 25 Ole Miss	Feb. 2, 2010	W, 85-75
vs. No. 21 Vanderbilt	Jan. 30, 2010	W, 85-72
vs. No. 14 UConn (New York)	Dec. 9, 2009	W, 64-61
vs. No. 10 North Carolina	Dec. 5, 2009	W, 68-66

Calipari's Record at UK vs:

vs. No. 1	2-2
vs. Top 3	3-6
vs. Top 5	10-10
vs. Top 10	23-19
vs. Top 15	36-22
vs. Top 20	46-27
vs. Top 25	57-30
Home	20-5
Away	7-12
Neutral	30-13
SEC Tourney	5-2
NCAA Tourney	15-6

Calipari in the NCAA Tournament

John Calipari is entering his 20th NCAA Tournament in 2019. Kentucky is 28-7 (.839) in tournament games under the direction of Calipari. He is 53-18 (.746) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games.

Calipari-coached teams appeared in four of five Final Fours from 2011 to 2015, the first time that happened since Duke went to five straight Final Fours (1988, 89, 90, 91, 92). Calipari leads the country with five Final Four appearances since 2008. He has advanced teams to six Final Fours in his on-court career, which is tied for the sixth most by a coach all-time. Only three coaches all-time have appeared in four of five Final Fours (Calipari, Mike Krzyzewski and John Wooden).

Of Calipari's 18 eliminations in the NCAA Tournament, he has only lost twice to double-digit seeds. He's never lost to a team seeded lower than 10th.

Calipari Named Semifinalist for Naismith Coach of the Year; Finalist for Jim Phelan

Already one of just two coaches to win the Naismith Men's Coach of the Year three times, John Calipari is looking to become the first four-time winner of the award with the his inclusion on the semifinalists list.

Calipari is one of 11 coaches up for the Atlanta Tipoff Club's top coaching honor. Calipari (1998, 2008, 2015) is tied with Duke's Mike Kzryzewski (1989, 1992, 1999) for the most Naismith honors.

Four finalists will be announced on March 20, at which point fans can support their favorite coach by visiting NaismithTrophy.com/vote. Voting will take place March 22 through April 3 with the fan vote accounting for five percent of the overall final vote. The winner will be awarded at the Naismith Awards Brunch during the Final Four in Minneapolis.

Calipari is one of 25 coaches on the list for finalists for the Jim Phelan Coach of the Year award. He previously won the award in 2009 in his final season at Memphis.

Moving Up the Kentucky Career Wins List

With an 80-53 victory vs. Auburn on Feb. 23, 2019, John Calipari moved past Joe B. Hall for the second-most wins in program history. Calipari trails only the legendary Adolph Rupp (876 wins) for the most wins at Kentucky and earned win No. 300 at Ole Miss on March 5.

When Calipari tied Hall with his 297th win at Missouri on Feb. 19, 2019, the did so 32 games faster than Hall and just two games slower than Rupp.

Although he's still climbing the charts, he's doing it nearly as fast as anyone else in school history. With the win over Ole Miss, Calipari became the fourth-fastest coach to 300 wins at one program in NCAA history. Only Bill Self (358 games at Kansas), Claire Bee (359 games at Long Island) and Rupp (366 at UK) got there faster.

Calipari passed Tubby Smith on Dec. 1, 2019, for the third-most coached games at UK. Smith's 10-year career with the Wildcats ended with his 346th game. Calipari and UK's win over UNC Greensboro on Dec. 1 marked the 347th career game he's been at the helm.

Rupp is obviously first in games coached with a 42-year tenure spanning 1,066 career games.

First-Ballot Hall of Famer

Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari joined basketball's fraternity of legends in September 2015 after being elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on the first ballot.

Calipari joined an elite group of basketball players and coaches in the Naismith Hall of Fame, considered to be one of the ultimate honors in the sport. The Class of 2015 included Calipari, Dick Bevetta, Wildcat Louie Dampier, Lindsay Gaze, Tom Heinsohn, John Isaacs, Spencer Haywood, Lisa Leslie, Dikembe Mutombo, George Raveling and JoJo White.

A Decorated Decade

In year No. 10 at Kentucky, John Calipari's time in Lexington has been every bit as successful -- and more -- as fans could have hoped when he agreed to become the head coach at UK back in the spring of 2009.

By just about every measure, he's been the most successful coach in college basketball during his time at Kentucky as he gets ready to put the first decade behind him. Among schools who have been to at least two Elite Eights and a Final Four since 2009-10, Calipari ranks:

- Second in wins (302) through March 15
- First in NCAA Tournament wins (28)
- Fourth in NCAA titles (one)
- First in Final Four appearances (four)
- First in Elite Eight appearances (six)
- First in Sweet 16 appearances (seven)
- Third in regular-season conference titles (five)
- Second in league tournament titles (six)

700 Victories and Counting

With Kentucky's win over UIC on Nov. 26, 2017, John Calipari reached 700 on-court wins. At the time he was one of just 41 coaches, regardless of NCAA level of classification, to reach that barrier. Only 29 coaches have done it with at least 10 seasons at the Division I level.

Calipari became the fourth-fastest coach to 700 on-court wins ever. Only Adolph Rupp (836 games), Jerry Tarkanian (876 games) and Roy Williams (879 games) did it faster.

Calipari is currently the only coach in NCAA history with at least 189 victories at three different schools.

Calipari Unrivaled in Conference

John Calipari has won 15 league regular-season championships (including five Southeastern Conference titles) seven more than the next-closest coach in the SEC (Bruce Pearl has eight). Calipari has has won six SEC Tournament championships in 10 seasons at Kentucky and owns 15 conference tournament titles in his career, 11 more than his closest competitors (Ben Howland and Kermit Davis).

He's tallied a 344-104 (.768) all-time record within conference play as a head coach and owns a 136-38 (.782) record since joining the SEC. His 136 total wins are the second most among Division I coaches since 1996-97 over their first 10 seasons with a program, while his winning percentage ranks third. Only Adolph Rupp (.833) had a better winning percentage through his first 10 seasons in league play in Kentucky's history.

Although he's been publicly outspoken against conference tournaments -- only because he doesn't favor playing three or more games on consecutive days to win the tournament -- his teams have gotten up for them. Calipari's teams at UMass, Memphis and Kentucky have been to 19 conference championship games in his 27-year career, winning a remarkable 15 of them. Calipari is 57-13 (.814) all-time in conference tournaments, including 23-4 (.852) at UK.

Calipari in Elite Company with Conference Championships

Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari added another first to his Hall of Fame career in 2017.

When Kentucky clinched at least a share of the 2017 Southeastern Conference championship by beating Vanderbilt on Feb. 28, 2017, he made history as a head coach. Calipari became the first NCAA Division I coach to lead three different programs (UMass, Memphis, Kentucky) to five on-court regular-season league titles five different times. He won the Atlantic 10 at the helm of UMass in 1992, 93, 94, 95 and 96. Memphis claimed the Conference USA crown in 2004, 06, 07, 08 and 09. Kentucky has captured the SEC five times in 2010, 12, 15, 16 and 17.

Perhaps more impressive is that Calipari has 30 combined regular-season and tournament championships after the 2018 SEC Tournament title. That trails only Mark Few of Gonzaga (33 titles with the West Coast Conference regular-season title in 2019) among all active

ON PACE WITH THE BARON OF THE BLUEGRASS

- Legendary coach Adolph Rupp won 876 career games while he was the coach of UK. He also led Kentucky to five NCAA titles during his 41-year tenure.
- John Calipari is just behind pace with Rupp to begin his career at UK in total victories. Calipari (.812) is slightly behind Rupp (.822) in total UK career winning percentage.

Coach	Games	Record	Next Game (373rd Game)
Adolph Rupp	372	305-67	def. Georgia 81-40 (Feb. 10, 1947)
John Calipari	372	302-70	March 21 vs. Abilene Christian
Joe B. Hall	372	281-91	def. Cincinnati 66-55 (Dec. 22, 1984)

COACH CALIPARI

UK vs. AP Ranked Foes Under Cal

Record as AP Top-Ranked Coach Since 2009-10

Coach	Schools	Records
1. John Calipari	Kentucky	69-7
2. Mike Krzyzewski	Duke	47-9
3. Bill Self	Kansas	42-8
4. Jay Wright	Villanova	28-6
5. Mark Few	Gonzaga	16-4
6. Jim Boeheim	Syracuse	15-4
7. Tom Crean	Indiana	14-3
8. Thad Matta	Ohio State	13-2
9. Sean Miller	Arizona	12-1
10. Billy Donovan	Florida	11-1

Record as AP Top-Ranked Coach Active

Coach	Schools	Records
1. Mike Krzyzewski	Duke	213-33
2. John Calipari	UK, Memphis, UMass	110-12
3. Roy Williams	UNC, Kansas	95-18
4. Bill Self	Kansas	44-9
5. Bruce Weber	Illinois	30-2
6. Jay Wright	Villanova	28-6
7. Jim Boeheim	Syracuse	24-5
8. Bob Huggins	Cincinnati	20-4
9. Mark Few	Gonzaga	16-4
10. Tom Crean	Indiana	14-3

through games on March 16

All-Time Calipari Draft Picks

Player (School)	Round	Year (Overall)
Bam Adebayo (UK)	First	2017 (14)
Eric Bledsoe (UK)	First	2010 (18)
Devin Booker (UK)	First	2015 (13)
Antonio Burks (MEM)	Second	2004 (36)
Marcus Camby (UMASS)	First	1996 (2)
Rodney Carney (MEM)	First	2006 (16)
DeMarcus Cousins (UK)	First	2010 (5)
Willie Cauley-Stein (UK)	First	2015 (6)
Anthony Davis (UK)	First	2012 (1)
Hamidou Diallo (UK)	Second	2018 (45)
Joey Dorsey (MEM)	Second	2008 (33)
C. Douglas-Roberts (MEM)	Second	2008 (40)
Robert Dozier (MEM)	Second	2009 (60)
Tyreke Evans (MEM)	First	2009 (4)
De'Aaron Fox (UK)	First	2017 (5)
S. Gilgeous-Alexander (UK)	First	2018 (11)
Archie Goodwin (UK)	First	2013 (29)
Josh Harrellson (UK)	Second	2011 (45)
Andrew Harrison (UK)	Second	2015 (44)
Dakari Johnson (UK)	Second	2015 (48)
Terrence Jones (UK)	First	2012 (18)
Enes Kanter (UK)	First	2011 (3)
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	First	2012 (2)
Brandon Knight (UK)	First	2011 (8)
Kevin Knox (UK)	First	2018 (9)
Skal Labissiere (UK)	First	2016 (28)
Doron Lamb (UK)	Second	2012 (42)
DeAndre Liggins (UK)	Second	2011 (53)
Trey Lyles (UK)	First	2015 (12)
Darius Miller (UK)	Second	2012 (46)
Malik Monk (UK) (11)	First	2017
Jamal Murray (UK)	First	2016 (7)
Nerlens Noel (UK)	First	2013 (6)
Daniel Orton (UK)	First	2010 (29)
Patrick Patterson (UK)	First	2010 (14)
Julius Randle (UK)	First	2014 (7)
Lou Roe (UMass)	Second	1995 (30)
Derrick Rose (MEM)	First	2008 (1)
Marquis Teague (UK)	First	2012 (29)
Karl-Anthony Towns (UK)	First	2015 (1)
Tyler Ulis (UK)	Second	2016 (34)
Jarred Vanderbilt (UK)	Second	2018 (41)
Dajuan Wagner (MEM)	First	2002 (6)
John Wall (UK)	First	2010 (1)
Shawne Williams (MEM)	First	2006 (17)

coaches. All-time, Calipari trails only the great Adolph Rupp (41) and Few.

30 is the new 20

With a 71-67 win over Mississippi State on Feb. 9, 2019, John Calipari achieved another feat in his decorated coaching career. With his 20th victory in 2019, he secured his 25th consecutive on-court 20-win season. He leads all active coaches with that streak, ahead of Mike Krzyzewski (23) and Bill Self (21).

With a first-round win over Northern Kentucky in the 2017 NCAA Tournament, Calipari and the Cats clinched a 30-win season for the fourth time as UK's head coach. Calipari has 10 seasons with 30 or more on-court wins. Only Krzyzewski (14) and Roy Williams (12) have more 30-win seasons as an active head coach. Calipari is the first coach in NCAA Division I history to record five straight on-court 30-win seasons, notching 30 wins in consecutive seasons from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

There's No Place Like Home

Since the 2000-01 season, John Calipari-coached teams have posted a 320-28 (.920) record at home. At UK, Coach Cal is 167-9 (.949) in Rupp Arena.

In five of Calipari's 10 seasons at Kentucky, the Wildcats have posted an undefeated record at home, including a school-record 19-0 mark during the 2014-15 season.

Calipari owns both of UK's longest winning streaks in the arena. He began his career at UK with a 54-game winning streak at Rupp Arena. It was the longest winning streak since the arena opened in 1976. With a win over Georgia on Feb. 9, 2016, he secured the second-longest streak in the storied building at 34 games (which ended at 42).

	Coach	Streak (Yrs)
1.	***John Calipari***	***54 (2010-13)***
2.	***John Calipari***	***42 (2014-17)***
3.	Rick Pitino	33 (1992-94)
4.	Joe B. Hall	30 (1981-82)
5.	Rick Pitino	27 (1995-97)

Life Away From Home Isn't So Bad Either

As good as John Calipari's team's have been at home, they're pretty good in hostile environments on the road. Dating back to the 2005-06 season, Calipari has recorded a 100-45 (.690) record on the road. At neutral-site venues, Kentucky is 74-19 (.796) all-time under Calipari.

Calipari at No. 1

John Calipari is one of just two coaches (Frank McGuire) to lead three programs to a No. 1 ranking. Calipari has led six of his 10 UK teams to the ranking and seven of his last 12 teams to the No. 1 ranking (he's done it nine times overall).

When Coach Cal's teams have been at the top, they've been difficult to knock off:

- Calipari is 110-12 (.902) as the top-ranked Associated Press Top 25 coach in the country
- He's 69-7 (.908) when his team is at the top of the AP Top 25 as UK's head coach
- Calipari tallied a 32-4 mark at UMass at No. 1 and he was 9-1 at Memphis when he had the Tigers at the pinnacle of the rankings
- He (110) trails only Duke's Mike Krzyzewski (213) in active coaches with victories at No. 1
- Calipari has coached 122 career games as a No. 1 team, the fourth most in NCAA history, trailing Krzyzewski (246), John Wooden (228) and Adolph Rupp (131)
- Among coaches who have owned a No. 1 ranking in at least 119 games, Calipari's winning percentage of .902 trails only Wooden (.952) and is ahead of active coach Krzyzewski (.866)
- Calipari is 5-4 vs. the top-ranked team in the land, including 2-2 at Kentucky

UK Collegiate Awards Under Calipari

All-America Honors
DeMarcus Cousins (2010)
AP (1), NABC (2), USBWA (2), SN (2)

John Wall (2010)
AP (1), NABC (2), USBWA (2), SN (2)

Anthony Davis (2012)
AP (1), NABC (2), USBWA (2), SN (2)

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (2012) *AP (3), USBWA (2), NABC (3), SN (2)*

Julius Randle (2014)
NABC (3)

Willie Cauley-Stein (2015)
NABC (1), USBWA (1), SN (1)

Karl-Anthony Towns (2015) *SN (3)*

Tyler Ulis (2016)
AP (1), SN (1), USBWA (2), NABC (2)

Malik Monk (2017)
SN (2), USBWA (2), NABC (2), AP (2)

PJ Washington (2019)
SN (3), USBWA (3)

SEC Player of the Year

John Wall	2010 (Coaches/AP)
Anthony Davis	2012 (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Ulis	2016 (Coaches/AP)
Malik Monk	2017 (AP)

SEC Defensive Player of the Year

Anthony Davis	2012 (Coaches)
Nerlens Noel	2013 (Coaches)
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015 (Coaches)
Tyler Ulis	2016 (Coaches)
Ashton Hagans (shared)	2019 (Coaches)

SEC Freshman(Coaches)/Newcomer (AP) of the Year

DeMarcus Cousins	2010 (Coaches)
John Wall	2010 (AP)
Terrence Jones	2011 (Coaches/AP)
Anthony Davis	2012 (Coaches/AP)
Nerlens Noel	2013 (Coaches/AP)
Julius Randle	2014 (Coaches/AP)
Karl-Anthony Towns	2015 (Coaches/AP)
Malik Monk	2017 (Coaches/AP)
Kevin Knox	2018 (Coaches)
Keldon Johnson	2019 (Coaches)
Tyler Herro	2019 (AP)

SEC Sixth Man of the Year

Darius Miller	2012 (Coaches)
Kyle Wiltjer	2013 (Coaches)
Devin Booker	2015 (Coaches)

CoSIDA Academic All-America

Alex Poythress (2nd)	2016

All-SEC

D. Cousins (2010)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Patrick Patterson (2010)	1st (Coaches)/2nd (AP)
John Wall (2010)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Terrence Jones (2011)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Brandon Knight (2011)	1st (Coaches)/2nd (AP)
Anthony Davis (2012)	1st (Coaches/AP)
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (2012)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Terrence Jones (2012)	2nd (Coaches/AP)
Doron Lamb (2012)	2nd (Coaches)
Nerlens Noel (2013)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Julius Randle (2014)	1st (Coaches/AP)
James Young (2014)	2nd (Coaches)
Devin Booker (2015)	2nd (Coaches)
Willie Cauley-Stein (2015)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Aaron Harrison (2015)	2nd (Coaches/AP)
Karl Towns (2015)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Ulis (2016)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Jamal Murray (2016)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Malik Monk (2017)	1st (Coaches/AP)
De'Aaron Fox (2017)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Bam Adebayo (2017)	2nd (Coaches/AP)
Kevin Knox (2018)	1st (Coaches)
Shai G.-Alexander (2018)	2nd (Coaches)
PJ Washington (2019)	1st (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Herro (2019)	2nd (Coaches)
Keldon Johnson (2019)	2nd (Coaches)

All-SEC Defensive Team

Patrick Patterson	2010
DeAndre Liggins	2011
Anthony Davis	2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	2012
Nerlens Noel	2013
Willie Cauley-Stein	2013
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Tyler Ulis	2016
Ashton Hagans	2019

Coaches' All-SEC Freshman Team

Eric Bledsoe	2010
DeMarcus Cousins	2010
John Wall	2010
Brandon Knight	2011
Terrence Jones	2011
Doron Lamb	2011
Anthony Davis	2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	2012
Willie Cauley-Stein	2013
Archie Goodwin	2013
Nerlens Noel	2013
Alex Poythress	2013
Julius Randle	2014
James Young	2014
Devin Booker	2015
Trey Lyles	2015
Karl-Anthony Towns	2015
Tyler Ulis	2015
Jamal Murray	2016
Malik Monk	2017
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Bam Adebayo	2017
Kevin Knox	2018
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	2018
Tyler Herro	2019
Keldon Johnson	2019

NCAA Final Four Team

Anthony Davis (MVP)	2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	2012
Doron Lamb	2012
Julius Randle	2014
James Young	2014

NCAA Regional Tournament

DeMarcus Cousins	2010
John Wall	2010
Josh Harrellson	2011
Brandon Knight (MVP)	2011
DeAndre Liggins	2011
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (MVP)	2012
Anthony Davis	2012
Doron Lamb	2012
Aaron Harrison	2014
Marcus Lee	2014
Julius Randle (MVP)	2014
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Andrew Harrison	2015
Karl Towns (MVP)	2015
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Isaac Humphries	2017

SEC All-Tournament Team

John Wall	2010
Eric Bledsoe	2010
DeMarcus Cousins	2010
Darius Miller	2011
Brandon Knight	2011
Josh Harrellson	2011
Anthony Davis	2012
Terrence Jones	2012
Aaron Harrison	2014
Julius Randle	2014
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Aaron Harrison	2015
Andrew Harrison	2015
Jamal Murray	2016
Tyler Ulis	2016
Bam Adebayo	2017
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Dominique Hawkins	2017
Wenyen Gabriel	2018
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	2018
Kevin Knox	2018

SEC Tournament MVP

John Wall	2010
Darius Miller	2011
Willie Cauley-Stein	2015
Tyler Ulis	2016
De'Aaron Fox	2017
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	2018

COACH CALIPARI

The Success Rate

John Calipari has graduated 100 percent of the players (18 of 18) who have been eligible to receive their diploma by the end of their senior years and exhausted their athletic eligibility. Of that group, Patrick Patterson, Jarrod Polson and Alex Poythress completed their degrees in three years. Jonny David and Brad Calipari are on track to graduate in May of 2019.

In the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate, which measures eligibility, retention and graduation, UK has posted a single-year Academic Progress Rate of 977 or higher in every season under Calipari, including a perfect 1,000 in the last five single-year reports. Kentucky's four-year composite score in the most recent report, which was released in May of 2018, was a 1,000, earning the team an NCAA academic award for the fourth year in a row for finishing in the top 10 percent of Division I men's basketball programs.

Under Calipari, the Wildcats routinely post a 3.0 grade-point average or better.

Dream Maker

As someone who prides himself on helping young men reach their dreams, Coach Cal has helped 46 players earn selection in the NBA Draft during his college coaching career, including 35 over his first nine seasons at Kentucky, which is more than any other coach.

- Four No. 1 overall selections (Derrick Rose, John Wall, Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns) during the nine drafts from 2008 to 2016. No other coach has more than two No. 1 picks
- In 2010, five of his UK players were selected in the first round for the first time in NBA history
- His six players in the 2012 and 2015 NBA drafts are the most in the two-round era
- Churned out 35 NBA Draft picks, 26 first-rounders, three No. 1 overall selections, seven top-five picks and 19 lottery picks at Kentucky
- Of the 54 players who have finished their college careers at Kentucky under Calipari, 35 have been selected in the NBA Draft (64.8 percent)
- Of the 21 players at UK who have declared for the NBA Draft after their freshman seasons, all 23 of 25 have been first-round picks. He is 27 for 29 in that regard when including his players from Memphis
- Dating back to the 2008 draft, 40 players under Coach Cal have been taken in the NBA Draft, including 28 first-rounders
- Only coach to produce the top two picks in the same draft (2012 - Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist)
- Produced a top-10 pick in 11 straight drafts since 2008, the only school to do so during that time period

Developing Talent

John Calipari hasn't just signed the best talent in the country while he's been at Kentucky; he's been the best at developing that talent and getting it ready for the next level.

Of the 30 top-25 Rivals.com players Kentucky has signed and have completed their college eligibility at UK, 26 were drafted and 21 were selected in the first round. But that's only half the story. Calipari's players don't just make it to the pros; they're better prepared than anyone else. The proof is in the numbers.

Over the course of his career, Calipari's nearly 50 NBA pros have nearly $1.9 billion in NBA contracts alone, which doesn't include endorsement deals and overseas contracts. Of his UK players in the NBA, they've earned nearly $1.5 billion in guaranteed contracts.

Double-Digit Win Streaks

Kentucky's 10-game winning streak this season -- its longest since winning 14 consecutive games near the end of the 2016-17 season -- was not abnormal for John Calipari-coached teams. Calipari's teams have posted 19 streaks of 10 or more wins at Kentucky, Memphis and UMass, including seven at UK.

They've won have won 15 or more straight games nine times, 20 or more six times, 25 or more five times, and 30 or more one time. Of course, the most famous streak was the 38-0 start during the 2014-15 season.

1. 38 Kentucky, 2014-15	6. 24 Kentucky, 2011-12	T10. 14 UMass, 1991-92	***T16. 10 Kentucky, 2018-19***
2. 27 Memphis, 2008-09	7. 19 Kentucky, 2009-10	T12. 12 Memphis, 2007-08	T16. 10 Kentucky, 2010-11
T3. 26 Memphis, 2007-08	8. 16 UMass, 1994-95	T12. 12 Memphis, 2002-03	T16. 10 Memphis, 2001-02
T3. 26 UMass, 1995-96	9. 15 Memphis, 2005-06	T12. 12 UMass, 1992-93	T16. 10 UMass, 1993-94
5. 25 Memphis, 2006-07	T10. 14 Kentucky, 2016-17	15. 11 Memphis, 2003-04	

Calipari Knows Defense

Although the 2018-19 Wildcats are off to a slow defensive start, defense has always been a staple of John Calipari-coached teams. Dating back to complete NCAA records beginning in 2001-02, Calipari's teams have been among national leaders in several critical defensive categories.

Year	FG % Def.	3PT FG % Def.	Rebound Margin	Scoring Margin	Blocks
2001-02 (UM)	13th (39.5)	N/A (29.3)	11th (+6.6)	15th (+11.2)	54th (4.4)
2002-03 (UM)	28th (40.6)	N/A (29.3)	44th (+4.1)	32nd (+8.0)	26th (5.1)
2003-04 (UM)	34th (40.5)	N/A (35.8)	58th (+3.4)	48th (+7.1)	20th (5.0)
2004-05 (UM)	***4th (38.4)***	N/A (32.7)	75th (+2.9)	62nd (+5.9)	13th (5.4)
2005-06 (UM)	***2nd (38.0)***	N/A (30.3)	***9th (+6.7)***	***5th (+14.6)***	***8th (6.4)***
2006-07 (UM)	12th (39.0)	N/A (31.3)	28th (+5.3)	***5th (+5.8)***	12th (5.9)
2007-08 (UM)	12th (39.1)	N/A (30.2)	16th (+6.2)	***2nd (+18.0)***	***8th (6.1)***
2008-09 (UM)	***1st (37.1)***	***10th (30.0)***	19th (+6.1)	***2nd (+16.3)***	***7th (6.0)***
2009-10 (UK)	***3rd (37.8)***	47th (31.3)	***4th (+8.1)***	***6th (+14.3)***	***4th (7.2)***
2010-11 (UK)	15th (39.4)	59th (32.4)	60th (+3.6)	13th (+11.4)	***3rd (6.3)***
2011-12 (UK)	***1st (37.4)***	67th (31.8)	12th (+6.8)	***1st (+16.8)***	***1st (8.6)***
2012-13 (UK)	30th (39.2)	104th (32.4)	48th (+4.3)	48th (+8.2)	***3rd (6.6)***
2013-14 (UK)	59th (41.1)	67th (32.2)	***2nd (+9.4)***	43rd (+8.2)	13th (5.9)
2014-15 (UK)	***1st (35.4)***	***3rd (27.1)***	15th (+6.8)	***1st (+20.1)***	***2nd (6.9)***
2015-16 (UK)	24th (39.7)	75th (32.6)	39th (+5.2)	17th (+11.4)	***6th (5.8)***
2016-17 (UK)	98th (42.4)	12th (30.6)	39th (+4.7)	***9th (+13.4)***	15th (5.3)
2017-18 (UK)	14th (40.4)	***4th (30.1)***	40th (+5.1)	68th (+6.5)	31st (4.8)
2018-19 (UK)	26th (40.3)	220th (35.0)	***5th (+9.0)***	24th (+11.3)	12th (5.1)

rankings through March 17

Former Players' NBA Awards

NBA Player of the Year
Derrick Rose 2011

NBA Rookie of the Year
Karl-Anthony Towns 2016
Tyreke Evans 2010
Derrick Rose 2009

NBA Defensive Player of the Year
Marcus Camby 2007

NBA Cares Community Assist Award
DeMarcus Cousins 2017
John Wall 2016

All-NBA Team
Anthony Davis (1st) 2018
Karl Towns (3rd) 2018
Anthony Davis (1st) 2017
John Wall (3rd) 2017
DeMarcus Cousins (2nd) 2016
Anthony Davis (1st) 2015
DeMarcus Cousins (2nd) 2015
Derrick Rose (1st) 2012
Derrick Rose (1st) 2011

All-NBA Rookie Team
Jamal Murray (2nd) 2017
Karl Towns (1st) 2016
Devin Booker (1st) 2016
W.Cauley-Stein (2nd) 2016
Nerlens Noel (1st) 2015
Anthony Davis (1st) 2013
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (2nd) 2013
Brandon Knight (1st) 2012
D. Cousins (1st) 2011
John Wall (1st) 2011
Eric Bledsoe (2nd) 2011
Tyreke Evans (1st) 2010
Derrick Rose (1st) 2010
Marcus Camby (1st) 1997

All-NBA Defensive Team
Anthony Davis (1st) 2018
Anthony Davis (2nd) 2017
Anthony Davis (2nd) 2015
John Wall (2nd) 2015
Marcus Camby (1st) 2008
Marcus Camby (1st) 2007
Marcus Camby (2nd) 2006
Marcus Camby (2nd) 2005

NBA All-Star Team
Anthony Davis 2019
Karl-Anthony Towns 2019
DeMarcus Cousins 2018
Anthony Davis 2018
Karl-Anthony Towns 2018
John Wall 2018
DeMarcus Cousins 2017
Anthony Davis 2017
John Wall 2017
DeMarcus Cousins 2016
Anthony Davis 2016
John Wall 2016
DeMarcus Cousins 2015
Anthony Davis 2015
John Wall 2015
Anthony Davis 2014
John Wall 2014
Derrick Rose 2012
Derrick Rose 2011
Derrick Rose 2010

All-Star Game MVP
Anthony Davis 2017

Rising Stars Challenge MVP
Jamal Murray 2017
John Wall 2011
Tyreke Evans 2010

Slam Dunk Contest Winner
Hamidou Diallo 2019
John Wall 2014

Three-Point Contest Winner
Devin Booker 2018

Skills Challenge Winner
Karl-Antony Towns 2016

Recruiting Trail

The Wildcats have signed more top-25 players under John Calipari's leadership than any other school. Nearly a quarter of all Rivals' top-10 prospects nationally over the past 10 classes have signed with Coach Cal and the Cats.

Player (Year)	ESPN	Rivals	247	MCD	JB
Dontaie Allen ('19)	NR	55	88		
Tyrese Maxey ('19)	11	9	11	Y	Y
Ashton Hagans ('18)	20	13	12		
Tyler Herro ('18)	30	36	38		Y
Keldon Johnson ('18)	7	15	18	Y	Y
EJ Montgomery ('18)	14	11	6	Y	
Zan Payne ('18)	NR	NR	NR		
Immanuel Quickley ('18)	25	22	19	Y	
Jemarl Baker ('17)	66	82	90		
Hamidou Diallo ('17)	11~	10~	11		
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander ('17)	35	34	20		
Quade Green ('17)	24	22	33	Y	Y
Kevin Knox ('17)	10	10	18	Y	Y
Nick Richards ('17)	17	17	15	Y	Y
Jarred Vanderbilt ('17)	19	14	12	Y	Y
PJ Washington ('17)	12	15	9	Y	Y
Bam Adebayo ('16)	5	7	12	Y	Y
Brad Calipari ('16)	NR	NR	NR		
De'Aaron Fox ('16)	6	6	6	Y	Y
Wenyen Gabriel ('16)	14	13	14		Y
Sacha Killeya-Jones ('16)	24	24	25	Y	
Malik Monk ('16)	9	9	10	Y	Y
Tai Wynyard ('16)	NR	NR	NR		
Isaiah Briscoe ('15)	13	10	16	Y	Y
Jonny David ('15)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Isaac Humphries ('15)	49	NR^	62		
Skal Labissiere ('15)	2	1	2		Y
Charles Matthews ('15)	42	48	74		Y
Jamal Murray ('15)	NA^	9	10		
Dillon Pulliam ('15)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Devin Booker ('14)	18	29	22	Y	Y
Trey Lyles ('14)	6	13	17	Y	Y
Karl-Anthony Towns ('14)	9	5	2	Y	Y
Tyler Ulis ('14)	25	21	20	Y	Y
EJ Floreal ('13)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Aaron Harrison ('13)	9	7	5	Y	Y
Andrew Harrison ('13)	5	5	3	Y	Y
Dominique Hawkins ('13)	NR	NR	151		
Dakari Johnson ('13)	7	9	8	Y	Y
Marcus Lee ('13)	25	19	14	Y	Y
Julius Randle ('13)	3	2	2	Y	Y
Derek Willis ('13)	NR	115	58		
James Young ('13)	8	11	10	Y	Y
Archie Goodwin ('12)	15	14	18	Y	Y
Willie Cauley-Stein ('12)	40	40	47		
Tod Lanter ('12)	NA#@	NA#@	NA#@		
Julius Mays ('12)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Nerlens Noel ('12)	1	2	1		Y
Alex Poythress ('12)	13	8	7	Y	Y
Twany Beckham ('11)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Anthony Davis ('11)	1	2	1	Y	Y
Ryan Harrow ('11)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist ('11)	4	3	2	Y	Y
Sam Malone ('11)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Brian Long ('11)	NR@	NR@	NR@		
Marquis Teague ('11)	8	5	6	Y	Y
Kyle Wiltjer ('11)	19	22	21	Y	Y
Terrence Jones ('10)	9	13	8*	Y	Y
Enes Kanter ('10)	25	3	3*		
Brandon Knight ('10)	4	6	6*	Y	Y
Doron Lamb ('10)	29	21	28*	Y	Y
Jarrod Polson ('10)	NR@	NR@	NR*@		
Stacey Poole, Jr. ('10)	51	33	67*		
Eloy Vargas ('10)	NA#	NA#	NA*#		
Eric Bledsoe ('09)	NR	23	37*		
DeMarcus Cousins ('09)	4	2	3*	Y	Y
Darnell Dodson ('09)	NA#	NA#	NA*#		
Jon Hood ('09)	92	40	46*		
Daniel Orton ('09)	13	22	17*		Y
John Wall ('09)	5	1	2*		Y
Top-10 Players	**21**	**23**	**22**		
Top-25 Players	**41**	**43**	**42**		
Top-50 Players	**47**	**50**	**48**		

McDonald's All-Americans 33
Jordan Brand Classic All-Americans 38

* Scout.com ranking | ~ final ranking in the 2017 class before early enrollment | ^ reclassified after final rankings were released |

COACH CALIPARI

A "players-first" coach with a penchant for helping people reach their dreams, John Calipari, a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer, has guided six teams to the Final Four, led one to a national championship and helped 46 players get selected in the NBA Draft during his 26-year college coaching career.

Calipari guided Kentucky to its eighth national championship and his first national title in 2012. In becoming only the second coach in NCAA history to lead three different schools to the Final Four, he has racked up more than 700 on-court victories, 19 NCAA Tournament appearances, six Final Fours and numerous national coach of the year honors.

In 2015, Coach Cal led college basketball's first ever 38-0 team, and became one of just three coaches to make four Final Fours in a five-year span. At the end of the season, Calipari became the 96th coach to join the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

While building a program out of obscurity at Massachusetts, laying the foundation at Memphis and restoring luster at the sport's greatest program at Kentucky, he has totaled the second-most wins in NCAA history in the first 20 years of a college coaching career.

Quite honestly, though, Calipari's on-court success overshadows a much more significant picture.

In his goal to lead a players-first program, he has helped 46 players realize their dreams and guided them to NBA Draft selections, including a record five first-round draft picks in 2010. Two years later, six Wildcats heard their names called at the 2012 draft, the most in the two-round draft era. UK, with Calipari's help, would tie those six picks again in 2015, including a record-tying four lottery selections. His four No. 1 overall picks are twice as many as any other coach, and he's had 35 players drafted during his first nine years at Kentucky, including 26 first-round picks.

Calipari's players have entered the league NBA-ready. His players have garnered 18 All-Star selections, with Anthony Davis winning the game's MVP honor in 2017. Rose was named MVP in 2011, five players have been tabbed All-NBA, three have been named NBA Rookie of the Year, and 11 players from Calipari's first nine teams at Kentucky have made the NBA All-Rookie teams.

Much like he did at UMass, where his players graduated at nearly 80 percent, Calipari has stressed academics. Fifteen of his last 18 seniors at Memphis earned their bachelor's degrees, and all 17 players at UK who were eligible to graduate by the end of their senior years walked away with a diploma in hand, including three players who earned their degree in just three years. Another Wildcat, Dillon Pulliam, is set to graduate in May of 2018. Calipari's teams routinely have posted a combined team grade-point averages of 3.0 or better.

His foundation, The Calipari Foundation, has raised millions of dollars to help the lives of those in need in the Commonwealth and across the country. In 2010, he used a telethon to raise more than $1 million for victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. He organized another one in 2012 for victims of Superstorm Sandy and another one in 2017 for victims of Hurricane Harvey.

In 2013, Calipari developed the idea of hosting an annual alumni weekend around his basketball fantasy experience with the intent to raise money for charity. After generating $350,000 for selected organizations and charities during the inaugural game, the weekend (the game and the fantasy experience) has generated more than $1 million for charity every year since, including in 2014 without the funds from an alumni game and 2016 with a celebrity softball game in place of the traditional basketball game.

In 2017, Coach Cal was named the head coach of the 2017 USA Basketball Men's U19 World Cup Team, which finished third at the 2017 FIBA U19 World Cup in Cairo.

Author of five books, including the New York Times Best Seller "Players First: Coaching from the Inside Out," Calipari is a master of communication and maximizing talent. He lives by the motto that "it's never a matter of how far you have fallen, but instead it's about how high you bounce back."

CHART SHOWS STATS FROM 2009-10 SEASON THROUGH 2017-18
ONLY SCHOOLS WITH AT LEAST TWO OR MORE ELITE EIGHTS AND AT LEAST ONE FINAL FOUR WERE CONSIDERED

TEAMS	WINS	NCAA TOURNAMENT WINS	NATIONAL TITLES	FINAL FOURS	ELITE EIGHTS	SWEET 16'S	LEAGUE TITLES (RS)	LEAGUE TOURNAMENT TITLES
ARIZONA	247	13	0	0	3	5	5	3
DUKE	267	23	2	2	4	6	1	3
FLORIDA	226	17	0	1	5	5	3	1
GONZAGA	271	17	0	1	2	4	8	7
KANSAS	278	23	0	2	5	5	9	5
KENTUCKY	275	28	1	4	6	7	5	6
LOUISVILLE	238	16	1	2	3	4	2	3
MICHIGAN	217	17	0	2	3	4	2	2
MICHIGAN ST.	238	17	0	2	3	5	3	3
N. CAROLINA	248	22	1	2	4	5	4	1
SYRACUSE	232	18	0	2	3	5	0	0
UCONN	197	13	2	2	2	2	0	2
VILLANOVA	244	16	2	2	2	2	4	3
WISCONSIN	228	18	0	2	2	6	1	1

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: Feb. 10, 1959 | **Wife:** Ellen
Children: Erin, Megan, Brad

Education
Clarion State (1982)

Head Coaching Experience
University of Massachusetts (1989-96)
New Jersey Nets (NBA) (1997-99)
University of Memphis (2001-09)
University of Kentucky (2010-present)

COACHING AWARDS

- 2018 Naismith Hall of Fame 'Service Above Self' Honoree
- 2018 NABC Metropolitan Award
- 2015 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2015 AP National Coach of the Year
- 2015 Naismith National Coach of the Year
- 2015 NABC National Coach of the Year
- 2015 The Sporting News National Coach of the Year
- 2015 Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
- 2015 SEC Coach of the Year (AP/Coaches)
- 2015 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
- 2012 Nell & John Wooden Coach of the Year Leadership Award
- 2012 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2012 SEC Coach of the Year (AP/Coaches)
- 2010 Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
- 2010 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2010 SEC Coach of the Year (AP)
- 2010 *Sporting News* SEC Coach of the Year
- 2010 Yahoo! Sports SEC Coach of the Year
- 2010 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
- 2009 NABC National Co-Coach of the Year
- 2009 *Sports Illustrated* National Coach of the Year
- 2009 Phelan National Coach of the Year
- 2009 Iba National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2009 C-USA Coach of the Year
- 2008 Naismith National Coach of the Year
- 2008 C-USA Coach of the Year
- 2008 Iba National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2008 Phelan National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2007 Phelan National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 2007 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
- 2007 *Basketball Times* South Region Coach of the Year
- 2006 C-USA Coach of the Year
- 2004 NABC District 7 Coach of the Year
- 1996 Naismith National Coach of the Year
- 1996 NABC National Coach of the Year
- 1996 *The Sporting News* National Coach of the Year
- 1996 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- 1995 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 1994 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
- 1994 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- 1993 USBWA District I Coach of the Year
- 1993 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- 1992 Eastern Basketball Coach of the Year

COACH CALIPARI

NCAA DIVISION I ACTIVE WINNINGEST COACHES

(On-Court By Percentage - Min. 10 yrs. at Division I level)

NO.	COACH/TEAM	YRS.	PCT.
1.	Mark Few/Gonzaga	18	.819
2.	Roy Williams/UNC	30	.788
3.	**John Calipari/Kentucky**	**26**	**.779**
4.	Mike Krzyzewski/Duke	43	.765
5.	Bill Self/Kansas	25	.765

*numbers going into the 2018-19 season

SINCE 2005-06 ...

Since the 2005-06 season, John Calipari's on-court record ranks him as the winningest coach. Totals through March 16, 2019.

	COACH	RECORD
1.	**John Calipari**	**439-84**
2.	Bill Self	425-88
3.	Mike Krzyzewski	408-97
4.	Mark Few	406-84
5.	Roy Williams	399-117

MISCELLANEOUS ON-COURT RECORDS

Overall On-Court Record: .....747-210 (.781)
March/April Record:.....160-46 (.777)
NCAA Record:.....53-18 (.746)
Record in Conference Games:.....344-104 (.768)
Record in Conference Tournament:.....57-13 (.814)

- Calipari owns the most single-season wins with 38, tying his own record (Memphis in '08 and UK in '12) in 2015 with 38 wins. He owns the most single-season wins at UMass, Memphis and UK
- Calipari is one of two coaches (Roy Williams) in NCAA Division I history to have 400 or more wins in the first 16 years as a head coach. Calipari had 416 wins in his first 16 years
- Calipari is the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history for a five-year span with 173 victories (2008-12)
- Calipari is the first coach in NCAA Division I history to record five straight on-court 30-win seasons. Memphis hit the 30-win plateau from 2006-09
- Calipari is one of only two coaches (Rick Pitino) to lead three different schools to a Final Four
- Calipari is one of only three coaches (John Wooden, Mike Kzryzewski) to go to four Final Fours in five seasons
- Calipari started with a 54-0 record in Rupp Arena as head coach of the Wildcats
- Calipari has 35 players that have been chosen in the NBA Draft (26 first-round picks) over the last nine seasons
- Calipari has more wins (327) in a 10-year period (2006-15) than any other coach in college basketball history
- Calipari is the fourth-fastest NCAA Division I men's basketball coach to reach 300 victories at a single school
- Calipari's 30 combined regular season and tournament league titles trail only Mark Few (33) of Gonzaga for the most among active coaches
- Calipari became the fourth-fastest coach to 700 on-court wins, behind only Adolph Rupp, Jerry Tarkanian and Roy Williams
- Calipari has the second-most wins in school history, behind only Adolph Rupp

CAL IN CONFERENCE

SEC COACHES	CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Tournament Championships	Conference Coach of the Year
Avery Johnson, Alabama	0	0	0
Mike Anderson, Arkansas	1	1	1
Bruce Pearl, Auburn	8	3	7
Michael White, Florida	3	0	3
Tom Crean, Georgia	3	0	3
John Calipari, Kentucky	**15**	**15**	**9**
Will Wade, LSU	1	0	1
Cuonzo Martin, Missouri	1	0	1
Kermit Davis, Ole Miss	7	4	4
Ben Howland, Mississippi State	7	4	3
Frank Martin, South Carolina	0	0	1
Rick Barnes, Tennessee	4	1	6
Billy Kennedy, Texas A&M	5	2	4
Bryce Drew, Vanderbilt	4	2	3
TOTALS	**59**	**32**	**46**

CALIPARI VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Alabama 16-4
Albany..... 1-0
Arizona 2-1
Arizona State 2-1
Arkansas 12-6
Arkansas-Little Rock 3-0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff..... 1-0
Arkansas State 4-0
Auburn..... 11-2
Austin Peay..... 6-1
Baylor 1-2
Belmont..... 2-0
Boise State..... 1-0
Boston 7-1
Boston College..... 2-0
Bradley 1-0
Bucknell 1-0
Buffalo 2-0
BYU 1-0
Cal State Northridge..... 1-0
Canisius 1-0
Central Conn. St..... 2-0
Charlotte..... 2-3
Chattanooga 2-0
Christian Brothers..... 2-0
Cincinnati..... 6-7
Cleveland State..... 4-0
Coastal Carolina..... 1-0
Colorado 1-1
Colorado State 0-1
Columbia 1-0
Connecticut 2-5
Coppin State 1-0
Cornell 1-0
Dartmouth..... 1-0
Davidson..... 1-0
Dayton 1-0
DePaul 4-2
Detroit 1-0
Drexel 2-0
Duke 1-3
Duquesne 12-4
East Carolina..... 7-0
East Tennessee State 4-0
Eastern Kentucky..... 3-0
Eastern Michigan..... 2-0
Fairfield..... 1-0
Florida 17-8
Florida State 1-1
Florida Tech 0-1
Fordham 5-0
Fort Wayne 1-0
Furman 1-0
George Mason 1-0
George Washington..... 8-9
Georgetown..... 2-1
Georgia 17-2
Georgia Tech..... 1-1
Gonzaga..... 4-0
Grand Canyon..... 1-0
Hampton..... 1-0
Hartford..... 2-0
Harvard..... 2-0
Hofstra..... 1-0
Holy Cross..... 4-1
Houston..... 16-3
Howard..... 1-0
Illinois 1-1
Illinois State 1-0
Indiana..... 3-2
Iowa..... 0-1
Iowa State..... 2-0
Jackson State 2-0
Kansas..... 4-6
Kansas State 2-1
Keene State 1-0
Kentucky..... 2-4
La Salle..... 3-0
Lafayette (Pa.)..... 1-0
Lamar..... 4-0
LIU-Brooklyn..... 1-0
Lipscomb 1-0
Long Beach State 1-0
Louisiana Tech 1-1
Louisville..... 16-7
Loyola 1-0
Lowell 2-1
LSU..... 11-3
Manhattan..... 2-0
Marist 2-0
Marquette 3-1
Marshall..... 6-0
Maryland 5-3
Massachusetts..... 1-0
Memphis 1-0
Miami (Fla.) 0-1
Miami (Ohio) 2-0
Michigan..... 1-0
Michigan State..... 2-1
Middle Tennessee..... 3-0
Milwaukee..... 1-0
Mississippi State 14-0
Mississippi Valley St..... 1-0
Missouri..... 9-3
Monmouth 2-0
Montana State..... 1-0
Morehead State..... 2-0
Murray State..... 1-0
Nevada 1-0
New Hampshire..... 5-0
New Mexico..... 1-0
New Orleans..... 1-0
NJIT..... 1-0
North Carolina 7-3
North Carolina State..... 1-0
North Dakota 1-0
North Texas..... 1-0
Northeastern 3-1
Northern Kentucky 2-0
Northwestern State 1-0
Notre Dame 2-1
Oakland 1-0
Ohio State..... 1-2
Oklahoma 5-1
Oklahoma State 0-2
Old Dominion 2-0
Ole Miss..... 15-4
Oral Roberts 1-0
Oregon State..... 1-0
Pennsylvania..... 3-0
Penn State 4-4
Pepperdine 1-0
Pittsburgh 2-1
Portland..... 3-0
Princeton 2-0
Providence..... 3-1
Purdue..... 2-1
Radford..... 1-0
Rhode Island..... 16-2
Rice..... 4-0
Richmond 1-0
Rider 1-0
Robert Morris 1-1
Rutgers 11-4
Saint Louis 4-3
Sam Houston State 1-0
Samford 3-0
Santa Clara..... 1-0
Savannah State 1-0
Seton Hall 1-1
Siena..... 4-0
SMU..... 7-0
South Carolina 14-3
South Connecticut 1-0
Southeastern Louisiana 3-0
Southern Cal..... 2-0
Southern Illinois 1-0
Southern Miss 15-4
Southwest Texas St. 1-0
St. Bonaventure..... 17-1
St. John's..... 1-0
St. Joseph's 15-5
St. Mary's..... 1-0
St. Peter's 1-0
Stanford..... 3-2
Stephen F. Austin..... 1-0
Stony Brook 1-0
Syracuse..... 3-2
TCU..... 7-1
Temple..... 13-11
Tennessee..... 16-11
Tennessee State..... 1-0
Tennessee Tech..... 1-0
Texas..... 2-2
Texas A&M..... 9-3
Towson State 1-0
Troy..... 1-0
Tulane..... 16-0
Tulsa 11-1
UAB..... 14-3
UCF 5-0
UCLA..... 4-4
UNC Asheville 2-0
UNC Greensboro 2-0
UNC Wilmington..... 1-0
UIC..... 1-0
USF 10-1
Utah..... 2-1
Utah Valley 1-0
UTEP 5-0
UT Arlington 3-0
UT Martin 5-0
Valparaiso..... 1-0
Vanderbilt..... 17-4
Vermont..... 3-0
Villanova..... 2-0
Virginia 0-1
Virginia Tech 3-0
VMI..... 1-0
Wake Forest..... 2-1
Washington 1-0
West Virginia 13-7
Western Kentucky 2-0
Wichita State 2-0
Winthrop 3-0
Wisconsin 1-1
Wofford 1-0
Wright State..... 1-0
Xavier..... 2-2
Yale 1-0

INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS CAL ERA

MOST POINTS

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
47	Malik Monk vs. North Carolina	12/17/16
39	De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA	3/24/17
37	Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA	1/31/17
35	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2/6/16
35	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1/11/11
34	Kevin Knox at West Virginia	1/27/17
34	Malik Monk at Ole Miss	12/29/16
33	Malik Monk vs. FLORIDA	2/25/17
33	Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt	2/27/16
33	Jamal Murray vs. Ohio State	12/19/15
32	Doron Lamb vs. WINTHROP	12/22/10
30	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. VANDERBILT	1/30/18
30	Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M	3/13/16
30	Brandon Knight vs. West Virginia	3/19/11
29	Tyler Herro vs. ARKANSAS	2/16/19
29	PJ Washington vs. Seton Hall	12/8/18
29	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Tennessee	3/11/18
29	Julius Randle vs. BELMONT	12/21/13
29	Terrence Jones vs. Oklahoma	11/22/10
29	Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee State	3/18/10

SEC: 37, Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA, 1/31/17
Postseason: 39, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
SEC Tourney: 30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16
NCAA Tourney: 39, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA, 3/24/17
Rupp Arena: 37, Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA, 1/31/17
On the Road: 34, Kevin Knox at West Virginia, 1/27/17
Neutral: 47, Malik Monk vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
SEC Road: 34, Malik Monk at Ole Miss, 12/29/16
Ranked Opp.: 47, Malik Monk vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Freshman: 47, Malik Monk vs. North Carolina, 12/17/16
Sophomore: 30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16
Junior: 25, Derek Willis vs. TENNESSEE, 2/18/16
Senior: 25, Alex Poythress at Alabama, 1/19/16
Opener: 25, Terrence Jones vs. ETSU, 11/12/10
SEC Opener: 34, Malik Monk at Ole Mis, 12/29/16
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

MOST POINTS IN AN SEC GAME

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
37	Malik Monk vs. GEORGIA	1/31/17
35	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2/6/16
35	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1/11/11
34	Malik Monk at Ole Miss	12/29/16
33	Malik Monk vs. FLORIDA	2/25/17
33	Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt	2/27/16
30	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. VANDERBILT	1/30/18
29	Tyler Herro vs. ARKANSAS	2/26/19
28	Jamal Murray vs. TENNESSEE	2/18/16
28	Anthony Davis vs. VANDERBILT	2/25/12
27	Malik Monk vs. VANDERBILT	2/28/17
27	Malik Monk vs. SOUTH CAROLINA	1/21/17
27	De'Aaron Fox vs. ARKANSAS	1/7/17
27	Tyler Ulis at South Carolina	2/13/16
27	Terrence Jones at LSU	1/28/12
27	Anthony Davis vs. ARKANSAS	1/17/12
27	DeMarcus Cousins at South Carolina	1/26/10

MOST POINTS IN A HALF

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
30	Malik Monk[2] vs. FLORIDA	2/25/17
27	Malik Monk[1] vs. North Carolina	12/17/16
27	Jamal Murray[2] vs. Ohio State	12/19/15
24	De'Aaron Fox[2] vs. UCLA	3/24/17
24	Malik Monk[1] at Ole Miss	12/29/16
23	Malik Monk[2] vs. GEORGIA	1/31/17
23	Julius Randle[2] vs. Michigan State	11/12/13
22	Terrence Jones[2] vs. AUBURN	1/11/11
22	Eric Bledsoe[2] vs. MOREHEAD STATE	11/13/09

1 / First Half; 2 / Second Half

MOST POINTS OFF THE BENCH

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
35	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1/11/11
32	Doron Lamb vs. WINTHROP	12/22/10
27	Malik Monk vs. VANDERBILT	2/28/17
26	Kyle Wiltjer at Ole Miss	1/29/13
24	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. LOUISVILLE	12/29/17
24	Kyle Wiltjer vs. LOYOLA	12/22/11
24	Doron Lamb at North Carolina	12/4/10
23	Wenyen Gabriel vs. Alabama	3/10/18
23	Kyle Wiltjer vs. LIPSCOMB	12/15/12
22	Reid Travis vs. VMI	11/18/18

MOST 3-POINTERS MADE

3's	Player vs. Opponent	Date
8	Malik Monk vs. North Carolina	12/17/16
8	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2/6/16
8	Eric Bledsoe vs. ETSU	3/18/10

MOST FREE THROWS

FTs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
14	Tyler Ulis at Arkansas	1/21/16
13	Keldon Johnson vs. TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18
13	De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA	3/24/17
13	Julius Randle at Ole Miss	2/18/14
13	Julius Randle vs. BELMONT	12/21/13
12	PJ Washington vs. Seton Hall	12/8/18
12	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. GEORGIA	12/31/17
12	Tyler Ulis at Tennessee	2/2/16
12	Dakari Johnson vs. UT ARLINGTON	11/25/14
12	Archie Goodwin at Ole Miss	1/29/13
12	Archie Goodwin vs. MOREHEAD STATE	11/21/12
12	Anthony Davis vs. LOUISVILLE	12/31/11

MOST REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
19	Nick Richards vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/9/18
19	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
18	PJ Washington vs. VMI	11/18/18
18	Bam Adebayo vs. Northern Kentucky	3/17/17
18	Anthony Davis vs. CHATTANOOGA	12/17/11
18	DeMarcus Cousins vs. LOUISVILLE	1/2/10
18	Patrick Patterson vs. RIDER	11/21/09
18	DeMarcus Cousins vs. SAM HOUSTON STATE	11/19/09
17	Keldon Johnson vs. AUBURN	2/23/19
17	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12/8/10
17	Terrence Jones at Washington	11/23/10
16	Wenyen Gabriel vs. AUBURN	1/14/17
16	Julius Randle vs. LSU	3/14/14
16	Julius Randle vs. UNC ASHEVILLE	11/8/13
16	Nerlens Noel vs. BAYLOR	12/1/12
16	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	4/2/12
16	Anthony Davis vs. LITTLE ROCK	1/3/12

SEC: 17, Keldon Johnson vs. AUBURN, 2/23/19
Postseason: 18, Bam Adebayo vs. NKU, 3/17/17
SEC Tourney: 16, Julius Randle vs. LSU, 3/14/14
NCAA Tourney: 18, Bam Adebayo, vs. NKU, 3/17/17
Rupp Arena: 19, Nick Richards vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, 11/9/18
On the Road: 17, Terrence Jones at Wash., 11/23/10
SEC Road: 15, Bam Adebayo at Missouri, 2/21/17
Ranked Opp.: 19, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE, 12/31/11
Freshman: 19, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE, 12/31/11
Sophomore: 19, Nick Richards vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, 11/9/18
Junior: 18, Patrick Patterson vs. RIDER, 11/21/09
Senior: 14, Josh Harrellson at Arkansas, 2/23/11
Opener: 16, Julius Randle vs. UNC ASHEVILLE, 11/8/13
SEC Opener: 12, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. OLE MISS, 1/6/15
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
9	Nick Richards vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/9/18
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. ARKANSAS	2/27/14
9	DeMarcus Cousins vs. OLE MISS	2/2/10
9	Patrick Patterson vs. RIDER	11/21/09
8	Bam Adebayo vs. UT MARTIN	11/25/16
8	Dakari Johnson vs. GRAND CANYON	11/14/14
8	DeMarcus Cousins vs. VANDERBILT	1/30/10
8	Patrick Patterson at Indiana	12/12/09
8	DeMarcus Cousins vs. SAM HOUSTON STATE	11/19/09

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
15	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12/8/10
14	Keldon Johnson vs. AUBURN	2/23/19
14	DeMarcus Cousins vs. LOUISVILLE	1/2/10
13	Anthony Davis vs. LSU	3/9/12
13	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
13	Anthony Davis vs. CHATTANOOGA	12/17/11
13	Terrence Jones vs. Washington	11/23/10
12	Jarred Vanderbilt vs. MISSOURI	2/24/18
12	Bam Adebayo vs. Northern Kentucky	3/17/17
12	Karl-Anthony Towns vs. GEORGIA	2/3/15
12	Julius Randle vs. Kansas State	3/21/14
12	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	4/2/12
12	Anthony Davis vs. Louisville	3/31/12
12	Anthony Davis vs. LITTLE ROCK	1/3/12

MOST ASSISTS

Assts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
16	John Wall vs. HARTFORD	12/29/09
14	Tyler Ulis vs. LSU	3/5/16
14	John Wall vs. UNC Asheville	11/30/09
12	Ashton Hagans vs. Tennessee	3/16/19
12	De'Aaron Fox vs. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	11/11/16
12	Tyler Ulis at South Carolina	2/13/16
11	Isaiah Briscoe at Ole Miss	12/29/16
11	De'Aaron Fox vs. CLEVELAND STATE	11/23/16
11	Tyler Ulis at Florida	3/1/16
11	Tyler Ulis at Texas A&M	2/20/16
11	Tyler Ulis vs. FLORIDA	2/6/16
11	John Wall vs. East Tennessee State	3/18/10
11	John Wall vs. RIDER	11/21/09

SEC: 14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3/5/16
Postseason: 12, Ashton Hagans vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
SEC Tourney: 12, Ashton Hagans vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
NCAA Tourney: 12, John Wall vs. ETSU, 3/18/10
Rupp Arena: 16, John Wall vs. HARTFORD, 12/29/09
On the Road: 12, Tyler Ulis, at South Carolina, 2/13/16
SEC Road: 12, Tyler Ulis, at South Carolina, 2/13/16
Ranked Opp.: 12, Ashton Hagans vs. Tennessee, 3/16/19
Freshman: 16, John Wall vs. HARTFORD, 12/29/09
Sophomore: 14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3/5/16
Junior: 9, DeAndre Liggins vs. WINTHROP, 12/22/10
Senior: 10, Julius Mays vs. LAFAYETTE, 11/16/12
Opener: 12, De'Aaron Fox vs. SFA, 11/11/16
SEC Opener: 11, Isaiah Briscoe at Ole Miss, 12/29/16

MOST POINTS/REBOUNDS/ASSISTS

P/R/A	Player vs. Opponent	Date
49 (47/0/2)	Malik Monk vs. UNC	12/17/16
47 (27/17/3)	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12/8/10
46 (29/13/4)	PJ Washington vs. Seton Hall	12/8/18
46 (39/3/4)	De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA	3/24/17
45 (29/13/3)	Terrence Jones vs. Oklahoma	11/22/10
45 (27/18/0)	DeMarcus Cousins vs. SAM HOUSTON STATE	11/19/09
44 (24/19/1)	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
43 (33/9/2)	Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt	2/27/16
43 (35/8/0)	Terrence Jones vs. AUBURN	1/11/11
42 (33/4/5)	Malik Monk vs. FLORIDA	2/25/17
42 (23/11/8)	Isaiah Briscoe vs. GEORGIA	1/31/17
42 (35/6/1)	Jamal Murray vs. FLORIDA	2/6/16

MOST MINUTES WITHOUT A TURNOVER

Mins.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
44	Darius Miller at Arkansas	2/23/11
41	Aaron Harrison vs. LSU	2/22/14
40	Tyler Ulis vs. Duke	11/17/15
40	Aaron Harrison vs. OLE MISS	1/6/15
40	Alex Poythress vs. MISSOURI	2/23/13
39	Nerlens Noel vs. TEXAS A&M	1/12/13
39	Ryan Harrow at Louisville	12/29/12
39	Anthony Davis vs. ALABAMA	1/21/12
39	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
38	Tyler Herro at Ole Miss	3/5/19
38	Aaron Harrison at LSU	1/28/14
38	Patrick Patterson vs. Mississippi State	3/14/10

MOST BLOCKED SHOTS

Blks.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
12	Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss	1/29/13
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. BOISE STATE	12/10/13
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Providence	12/1/13
8	Nerlens Noel at Alabama	1/22/13
8	Anthony Davis at South Carolina	2/4/12
8	Anthony Davis vs. ST. JOHN'S	12/1/11
7	Karl-Anthony Towns vs. VANDERBILT	1/20/15
7	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. EAST MICHIGAN	11/27/13
7	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. MISSOURI	2/23/13
7	Nerlens Noel at Auburn	1/19/13
7	Nerlens Noel vs. TEXAS A&M	1/12/13
7	Nerlens Noel vs. LIPSCOMB	12/15/12
7	Nerlens Noel vs. PORTLAND	12/8/12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Western Kentucky	3/15/12
7	Anthony Davis at Vanderbilt	2/11/12
7	Anthony Davis vs. TENNESSEE	1/31/12
7	Anthony Davis vs. ARKANSAS	1/17/12
7	Anthony Davis vs. SOUTH CAROLINA	1/7/12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	11/15/11

SEC: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
Postseason: 7, A. Davis vs. Western Kentucky, 3/15/12
SEC Tourney: 6, Anthony Davis vs. LSU, 3/11/12
NCAA Tourney: 7, A. Davis vs. Western Kentucky, 3/15/12
Rupp Arena: 9, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. BOISE STATE, 12/10/13
On the Road: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
SEC Road: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
Ranked Opp.: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
Freshman: 12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1/29/13
Sophomore: 9, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. BOISE STATE, 12/10/13
Junior: 4, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. ARKANSAS, 2/28/15
Senior: 6, Josh Harrellson vs. PENN, 1/3/11
Opener: 5, Anthony Davis vs. MARIST, 11/11/11
SEC Opener: 7, A. Davis vs. SOUTH CAROLINA, 1/7/12
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

MOST STEALS

Stls.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
8	Ashton Hagans vs. North Carolina	12/22/18
6	Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS	1/2/16
6	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. GEORGIA	1/25/14
6	Nerlens Noel vs. BAYLOR	12/1/12
6	John Wall vs. UConn	12/9/09
6	John Wall vs. UNC Asheville	11/30/09
5	Ashton Hagans vs. TEXAS A&M	1/8/19
5	Tyler Herro vs. MONMOUTH	11/28/18
5	Tyler Herro vs. NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18
5	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Davidson	3/15/18
5	Malik Monk vs. UCLA	12/3/16
5	Aaron Harrison vs. ARKANSAS	2/28/15
5	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Texas	12/5/14
5	DeAndre Liggins vs. TENNESSEE	2/8/11
5	Darius Miller at Portland	11/19/10

SEC: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1/2/16
Postseason: 5, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Davidson, 3/15/18
SEC Tourney: 5, John Wall vs. Mississippi State, 3/14/10
NCAA Tourney: 5, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Davidson, 3/15/18
Rupp Arena: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1/2/16
On the Road: 5, Darius Miller at Portland, 11/19/10
SEC Road: 4, Ashton Hagans at Georgia, 1/15/19
Ranked Opp.: 8, Ashton Hagans vs. North Carolina, 12/22/18
Freshman: 8, Ashton Hagans vs. North Carolina, 12/22/18
Sophomore: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1/2/16
Junior: 5, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. TEXAS, 12/5/14
Senior: 4, Dominique Hawkins vs. Arkansas, 3/12/17
Opener: 4, Knox/Gilgeous-Alexander vs.UTAH VALLEY, 11/10/17
SEC Opener: 6, Tyler Ulis vs. OLE MISS, 1/2/16
***In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed*

TEAM GAME RECORDS CAL ERA

MOST FIELD GOALS

FGs.	Opponent	Date
46	MARIST	11/11/11
44	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
44	AUBURN	2/21/15
42	UIC	11/26/17
42	LIU BROOKLYN	11/23/12
41	UT MARTIN	11/25/16
41	HARTFORD	12/29/09
40	vs. North Carolina	12/17/16
40	LAFAYETTE	11/16/12
38	CLEVELAND STATE	11/23/16
38	LSU	3/5/16
38	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10

FEWEST FIELD GOALS

FGs.	Opponent	Date
14	at Tennessee	3/2/19
14	at South Carolina	3/1/14
16	vs. Kansas State	3/22/18
16	ALABAMA	3/4/14
17	GEORGIA	12/31/17
17	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
17	at Auburn	2/12/14
18	vs. LSU	3/9/12
18	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
18	vs. Florida	3/16/14
18	vs. UConn	4/7/14
18	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
18	at South Carolina	1/24/15

MOST FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPTS

FGs.	Opponent	Date
84	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
80	UCLA	12/3/16
77	ARKANSAS	1/23/10
76	ARKANSAS	2/27/14
75	MARIST	11/11/11
74	at Ole Miss	12/29/16
74	vs. North Carolina	12/17/16
74	UT MARTIN	11/25/16

FEWEST FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPTS

FGs.	Opponent	Date
39	at South Carolina	1/24/15
40	at Robert Morris	3/19/13
41	ALABAMA	1/31/15
41	TENNESSEE	1/31/12
42	ARKANSAS	2/26/19
42	at Missouri	2/19/19
42	vs. Kansas State	3/22/18
42	vs. Alabama	3/10/18
42	FLORIDA	2/15/14
42	vs. Providence	12/1/13
42	vs. LSU	3/9/12
42	vs. Cleveland State	11/24/09

MOST FREE THROWS

FTs.	Opponent	Date
35	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
33	at South Carolina	3/1/14
32	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
31	MOREHEAD STATE	11/21/12
31	INDIANA	12/11/10
30	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
30	UNC ASHEVILLE	11/8/13
30	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
29	VMI	11/18/18
29	ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15
29	at North Carolina	12/14/13

FEWEST FREE THROWS

FTs.	Opponent	Date
3	ETSU	11/17/17
4	vs. UConn	4/2/11
4	VANDERBILT	1/23/16
5	vs. Georgia	3/9/18
6	vs. Michigan	3/30/14
6	at Florida	2/12/13
6	at Alabama	1/22/13
6	vs. Princeton	3/17/11

MOST FREE-THROW ATTEMPTS

FTs.	Opponent	Date
48	UNC ASHEVILLE	11/8/13
46	ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15
44	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
44	INDIANA	12/11/10
43	at North Carolina	12/14/13
43	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
42	at South Carolina	3/1/14
41	vs. TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18
41	vs. LSU	3/14/14
41	MOREHEAD STATE	11/21/12

FEWEST FREE-THROW ATTEMPTS

FTs.	Opponent	Date
6	VANDERBILT	1/23/16
10	vs. Georgia	3/9/18
10	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
11	at Georgia	1/15/19
11	at Louisville	12/29/18
11	at LSU	2/10/15
11	vs. Michigan	3/30/14
11	MISSISSIPPI STATE	2/27/13
11	at Florida	2/12/13
11	at Alabama	1/22/13
11	at Florida	3/4/12
11	GEORGIA	3/1/12
11	FLORIDA	2/7/12
11	vs. Princeton	3/17/11

MOST 3-POINTERS

3s.	Opponent	Date
15	GEORGIA	3/1/12
15	vs.ETSU	3/18/10
14	HARTFORD	12/29/09
13	TEXAS A&M	1/3/17
13	vs. Alabama	3/11/16
13	ETSU	11/12/10
12	UTAH	12/15/18
12	FLORIDA	2/6/16
12	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
12	CHATTANOOGA	12/17/11
12	vs. North Carolina	3/27/11
12	WINTHROP	12/22/10
12	VANDERBILT	1/30/10

FEWEST 3-POINTERS

3s.	Opponent	Date
0	vs. Davidson	3/15/18
1	at South Carolina	1/16/18
1	at Vanderbilt	1/10/17
1	Texas	12/5/14
1	LSU	2/22/14
1	vs. LSU	3/9/12
1	Tennessee	1/31/12
1	vs. Alabama	3/12/10

MOST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

3s.	Opponent	Date
33	CHATTANOOGA	12/17/11
33	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
33	ARKANSAS	1/23/10
32	vs. West Virginia	3/27/10
28	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
28	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
28	ALABAMA	3/4/14
28	vs. Vanderbilt	3/11/12
28	HARTFORD	12/29/09
27	GEORGIA	3/1/12
27	vs. UConn	4/2/11

FEWEST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

3s.	Opponent	Date
5	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
5	vs. Wisconsin	4/5/14
5	at Tennessee	1/14/12
6	vs. Davidson	3/15/18
6	FLORIDA	3/7/15
6	Vanderbilt	1/20/15
7	FLORIDA	3/10/19
7	at Missouri	1/29/15
7	PROVIDENCE	11/30/14
7	vs. Louisville	3/31/12
7	at Indiana	12/10/11

MOST REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opponent	Date
59	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
59	ARKANSAS	1/23/10
57	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
56	ROBERT MORRIS	11/17/13
54	NJIT	11/14/15

FEWEST REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opponent	Date
21	ALABAMA	1/31/15
21	at Tennessee	2/16/13
22	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
23	UTAH	12/15/18
24	GEORGIA	2/3/15
24	NORTH CAROLINA	12/13/14
24	TENNESSEE	1/18/14
25	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
25	at Robert Morris	3/19/13

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opponent	Date
26	ARKANSAS	2/27/14
24	GRAND CANYON	11/14/14
24	vs. West Virginia	3/27/10
22	NJIT	11/14/15
22	at Auburn	2/2/14
22	ARKANSAS	1/23/10
21	SOUTH CAROLINA	2/5/19
21	at West Virginia	1/27/18
21	VALPARAISO	12/7/16
21	COLUMBIA	12/10/14
21	at South Carolina	3/1/14
21	BAYLOR	12/1/12
21	at Indiana	12/12/09

FEWEST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opponent	Date
1	vs. Alabama	3/10/18
3	at South Carolina	1/24/14
4	at Ole Miss	3/5/19
5	GEORGIA	2/3/15
5	ALABAMA	1/31/15
5	MISSISSIPPI STATE	2/15/11
5	GEORGIA	1/29/11

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opponent	Date
39	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
39	ROBERT MORRIS	11/17/13
39	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1/2/13
38	TROY	11/20/17
38	vs. Hampton	3/19/15
38	EASTERN KENTUCKY	12/7/14
38	vs. Cleveland State	11/24/09
37	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
37	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
37	ARKANSAS	1/23/10

FEWEST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opponent	Date
9	at Tennessee	2/16/13
13	NORTH CAROLINA	12/13/14
15	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
15	at Alabama	1/18/11
16	UTAH	12/15/18
16	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
16	ALABAMA	1/31/15
16	TEXAS A&M	1/12/13
16	at Auburn	1/11/12
16	vs. UConn	11/24/10

MOST ASSISTS

Assts.	Opponent	Date
33	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
30	HARTFORD	12/29/09
28	LIU BROOKLYN	11/23/12
28	vs. UNC Asheville	11/30/09
25	CLEVELAND STATE	11/23/16
25	AUBURN	2/21/15
25	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
24	vs. North Carolina	12/22/18
24	at Ole Miss	12/29/16
24	UT MARTIN	11/25/16
24	BOSTON	11/21/14
24	MARIST	11/11/11
24	vs. ETSU	3/18/10

FEWEST ASSISTS

Assts.	Opponent	Date
5	LSU	2/22/14
6	vs. Kansas State	3/22/18
6	at Florida	3/3/18
6	VANDERBILT	3/1/11

MOST TURNOVERS

TOs.	Opponent	Date
24	MOREHEAD STATE	11/13/09
23	SAM HOUSTON STATE	11/19/09
22	ETSU	11/17/17
21	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
21	vs. Old Dominion	11/20/11
21	NORTH CAROLINA	12/5/09
20	EASTERN MICHIGAN	11/27/13
20	ALBANY	11/13/15
20	vs. Cleveland State	11/24/09

FEWEST TURNOVERS

TOs.	Opponent	Date
3	at Georgia	3/3/15
3	at South Carolina	2/4/12
4	ALABAMA	2/23/16
4	COLUMBIA	12/10/14
4	vs. Wisconsin	4/5/14
4	PORTLAND	11/26/11
5	vs. Georgia	3/9/18
5	vs. Georgia	3/12/16
5	at Vanderbilt	2/27/16
5	ALABAMA	1/31/15

MOST BLOCKS

Blks.	Opponent	Date
18	ST. JOHN'S	12/1/11
15	vs. Stony Brook	3/17/16
14	at Georgia	3/3/10
13	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
13	at Ole Miss	1/29/13
13	ARKANSAS	1/17/12
13	vs. Kansas	11/15/11
13	MARIST	11/11/11

TEAM GAME RECORDS CAL ERA

FEWEST BLOCKS

Blks.	Opponent	Date
1	LSU	2/12/19
1	SOUTH CAROLINA	2/5/19
1	at Alabama	1/5/19
1	vs. Georgia	3/9/18
1	at Vanderbilt	1/10/17
1	vs. Alabama	3/11/16
1	at LSU	1/5/16
1	WRIGHT STATE	11/20/15
1	ALABAMA	1/31/15
1	at Missouri	1/29/15
1	vs. Wisconsin	4/5/14
1	at Florida	3/8/14

MOST STEALS

Stls.	Opponent	Date
15	LAFAYETTE	11/16/12
13	OLE MISS	1/2/16
13	vs. UConn	12/9/09
12	vs. North Carolina	12/22/18
12	NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18
12	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	11/11/16
12	BOSTON	11/24/15
12	NORTH CAROLINA	12/13/14
12	PROVIDENCE	11/30/14
12	LIPSCOMB	12/15/12
12	PORTLAND	11/26/11
12	vs. Cornell	3/25/10
12	GEORGIA	1/9/10
12	vs. UNC Asheville	11/30/09

FEWEST STEALS

Stls.	Opponent	Date
0	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
1	vs. Duke	11/7/18
1	at West Virginia	1/27/18
1	vs. Michigan State	11/12/13
1	at Robert Morris	3/19/13
1	vs. West Virginia	3/19/11
1	FLORIDA	2/26/11

MOST PERSONAL FOULS

Fls.	Opponent	Date
33	at Kansas	1/30/16
32	at South Carolina	1/16/18
31	at Arkansas	1/14/14
31	at North Carolina	12/14/13
29	at Missouri	2/3/18
29	at South Carolina	3/1/14
28	VANDERBILT	1/30/10

FEWEST PERSONAL FOULS

Fls.	Opponent	Date
7	HARTFORD	12/29/09
8	MONTANA STATE	11/23/14
8	LAFAYETTE	11/16/12
8	vs. Florida	3/10/12
8	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
8	WINTHROP	12/22/10
8	DREXEL	12/21/09
8	vs. UNC Asheville	11/30/09

HIGHEST FIELD-GOAL PCT.

Pct.	Opponent	Date
.677	LIU BROOKLYN	11/23/12
.667	UIC	11/26/17
.647	AUBURN	2/21/15
.645	LAFAYETTE	11/16/12
.643	vs. Alabama	3/10/18
.643	vs. Providence	12/1/13
.614	SOUTH CAROLINA	2/5/13
.613	MARIST	11/11/11
.603	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
.603	HARTFORD	12/29/09

LOWEST FIELD-GOAL PCT.

Pct.	Opponent	Date
.269	at South Carolina	3/1/14
.281	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
.296	BAYLOR	12/1/12
.298	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
.309	at Auburn	2/12/14
.313	at Missouri	2/3/18
.318	at Tennessee	3/2/19
.315	GEORGIA	12/31/17
.327	ALABAMA	3/4/14
.339	vs. UConn	4/2/11

HIGHEST FREE-THROW PCT.

Pct.	Opponent	Date
1.000	FLORIDA	2/7/12
1.000	AUSTIN PEAY	12/19/09
.958	TENNESSEE	1/18/14
.955	at Florida	2/7/15
.946	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
.923	at Mississippi State	2/25/15
.913	TEXAS A&M	1/8/19
.900	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
.900	at Ole Miss	2/18/14
.895	DREXEL	12/21/09

min 10 attempts

LOWEST FREE-THROW PCT.

Pct.	Opponent	Date
.200	ETSU	11/17/17
.333	vs. UConn	4/2/11
.391	ETSU	11/12/10
.412	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
.435	at Vanderbilt	2/27/16
.471	at Texas A&M	2/10/18
.471	PROVIDENCE	11/30/14
.478	at Louisville	12/29/12

min 10 attempts

HIGHEST 3-POINT PCT.

Pct.	Opponent	Date
.700	at Florida	3/1/16
.692	DREXEL	12/21/09
.667	vs. Alabama	3/10/18
.667	AUSTIN PEAY	12/19/09
.636	vs. Michigan	3/30/14
.625	MISSOURI	2/24/18
.625	BOSTON	11/30/10
.600	FLORIDA	2/6/16
.600	FLORIDA	2/7/12
.591	vs. Alabama	3/11/16

min 10 attempts

LOWEST 3-POINT PCT.

Pct.	Opponent	Date
.000	vs. Davidson	3/15/18
.077	vs. Alabama	3/12/10
.083	TEXAS	12/5/14
.091	at South Carolina	1/16/18
.091	at Tennessee	2/27/10
.100	at Missouri	2/3/18
.100	TENNESSEE	1/31/12
.111	at Vanderbilt	1/10/17
.118	COLUMBIA	12/10/14
.125	vs. LSU	3/9/12
.125	vs. West Virginia	3/27/10
.125	vs. Cornell	3/25/10

min 10 attempts

HIGHEST REBOUND MARGIN

Margin	Opponent	Date
+31	NJIT	11/14/15
+30	NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18
+30	GRAND CANYON	11/14/14
+29	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/9/18
+28	NKU	11/10/13
+27	vs. Little Rock	1/3/12
+26	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
+26	LOUISVILLE	12/31/11
+25	EASTERN KENTUCKY	12/9/15
+25	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1/2/13
+25	at Indiana	12/12/09

LOWEST REBOUND MARGIN

Margin	Opponent	Date
-25	at Florida	2/4/1 7
-18	at Tennessee	2/16/13
-16	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
-16	vs. Maryland	11/9/12
-15	TENNESSEE	1/18/14
-14	at LSU	1/5/16
-12	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
-12	GEORGIA	2/3/15
-12	at South Carolina	1/24/14
-12	vs. Alabama	3/12/10
-11	at Kansas	1/30/16
-11	TEXAS	12/5/14

VICTORY MARGINS

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+58 (86-28)	MONTANA STATE	11/13/14
+52 (101-49)	LAFAYETTE	11/16/12
+50 (108-58)	MARIST	11/11/11
+49 (86-37)	MISSOUI	1/13/15
+48 (92-44)	UT ARLINGTON	11/25/14
+48 (88-40)	RADFORD	11/23/11
+46 (90-44)	MONMOUTH	11/28/18
+46 (115-69)	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
+44 (88-44)	DREXEL	12/21/09
+43 (104-61)	HARTFORD	12/29/09

VICTORY MARGIN IN RUPP ARENA

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+58 (86-28)	MONTANA STATE	11/13/14
+52 (101-49)	LAFAYETTE	11/16/12
+50 (108-58)	MARIST	11/11/11
+49 (86-37)	MISSOURI	1/13/15
+48 (92-44)	UT ARLINGTON	11/25/14
+48 (88-40)	RADFORD	11/23/11
+46 (90-44)	MONMOUTH	11/28/18
+44 (88-44)	DREXEL	12/21/09
+43 (104-61)	HARTFORD	12/29/09
+42 (100-58)	TEXAS A&M	1/3/17

VICTORY MARGIN IN SEC PLAY

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+49 (86-37)	MISSOURI	1/13/15
+42 (100-58)	TEXAS A&M	1/3/17
+38 (82-44)	LSU	1/15/11
+35 (87-52)	at Vanderbilt	1/29/19
+35 (110-75)	AUBURN	2/21/15
+34 (82-48)	GEORGIA	2/9/16
+34 (88-54)	MISSOURI	1/27/16
+34 (77-43)	SOUTH CAROLINA	2/14/15
+34 (86-52)	at South Carolina	2/4/12
+31 (90-59)	SOUTH CAROLINA	2/19/11
+31 (101-70)	ARKANSAS	1/23/10

VICTORY MARGIN ON THE ROAD

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+35 (87-52)	at Vanderbilt	1/29/19
+34 (86-52)	at South Carolina	2/4/12
+31 (79-48)	at Portland	11/19/10
+27 (89-62)	at South Carolina	2/13/16
+26 (81-55)	at LSU	2/6/10
+24 (74-50)	at LSU	1/28/12
+23 (99-76)	at Ole Miss	12/29/16
+22 (70-48)	at Alabama	1/17/15
+22 (75-53)	at Auburn	1/19/13
+20 (69-49)	at Georgia	1/15/19

VICTORY MARGIN AT A NEUTRAL SITE

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+46 (115-69)	vs. Arizona State	11/28/16
+39 (78-39)	vs. West Virginia	3/26/15
+39 (83-44)	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
+38 (85-47)	vs. Penn State	11/19/11
+32 (72-40)	vs. Kansas	11/18/14
+30 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
+29 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
+29 (74-45)	vs. Tennessee	3/13/10
+28 (85-57)	vs. Stony Brook	3/17/16
+26 (85-59)	vs. Alabama	3/11/16

VICTORY MARGIN ON THE ROAD IN THE SEC

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+35 (87-52)	at Vanderbilt	1/29/19
+34 (86-52)	at South Carolina	2/4/12
+27 (89-62)	at South Carolina	2/13/16
+26 (81-55)	at LSU	2/6/10
+24 (74-50)	at LSU	1/28/12
+23)99-76)	at Ole Miss	12/29/16
+22 (70-48)	at Alabama	1/17/15
+22 (75-53)	at Auburn	1/19/13
+20 (69-49)	at Georgia	1/15/19
+18 (74-56)	at Mississippi State	2/25/15
+18 (66-48)	at Tennessee	2/17/15

VICTORY MARGIN IN THE SEC TOURNAMENT

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+29 (74-45)	vs. Tennessee	3/13/10
+26 (85-59)	vs. Alabama	3/11/16
+24 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
+23 (86-63)	vs. Alabama	3/10/18
+18 (73-55)	vs. Alabama	3/15/19
+18 (85-67)	vs. LSU	3/14/14
+17 (82-65)	vs. Arkansas	3/12/17
+16 (70-54)	vs. Florida	3/13/11
+15 (78-63)	vs. Arkansas	3/15/15
+15 (64-49)	vs. Florida	3/13/15

VICTORY MARGIN IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+39 (78-39)	vs. West Virginia	3/26/15
+30 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
+29 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
+28 (85-57)	vs. Stony Brook	3/17/16
+23 (79-56)	vs. Hampton	3/19/15
+20 (95-75)	vs. Buffalo	3/17/18
+17 (62-45)	vs. Cornell	3/25/10
+16 (87-71)	vs. Iowa State	3/17/12
+15 (81-66)	vs. Western Kentucky	3/15/12
+13 (64-51)	vs. Cincinnati	3/21/15
+12 (82-70)	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
+12 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3/23/12

2

ASHTON HAGANS

Freshman | Guard | 6-3 | 192 lbs | Cartersville, Ga. | Newton

@H23Ash | @ashton.hagans

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	23, at Georgia (1/15/19)
Career	23, at Georgia (1/15/19)
Rebounds	
Season	7, at Auburn, (1/19/19)
Career	7, at Auburn, (1/19/19)
Field Goals	
Season	9, at Georgia (1/15/19)
Career	9, at Georgia (1/15/19)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	18, at Georgia (1/15/19)
Career	18, at Georgia (1/15/19)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	2, 2x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	2, 2x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	4, 2x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	4, 2x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Free Throws	
Season	10, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Career	10, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	11, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Career	11, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Assists	
Season	12, vs. Tennessee (3/16/19)
Career	12, vs. Tennessee (3/16/19)
Steals	
Season	8, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	8, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Blocked Shots	
Season	2, vs. VMI (11/18/18)
Career	2, vs. VMI (11/18/18)
Minutes Played	
Season	38, vs. Tennessee (3/16/19)
Career	38, vs. Tennessee (3/16/19)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	3	3
Double-Figure Scoring Games	11	11
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	0	0
Games With Double-Double	1	1
Games Led UK in Scoring	2	2
Games Led UK in Rebounding	1	1
Games Led UK in Assists	24	24
Games Led UK in Steals	17	17
Games Led UK in Blocks	1	1
Games With 3+ Assists	26	26
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	10	10
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- Pronunciation: HAY-gens
- SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year as voted by the league's coaches
- SEC All-Defensive Team
- Naismith National Defensive Player of the Year Semifinalist
- Athletic All-Glue Team
- Two-time SEC Freshman of the Week winner
- Made eight 3-pointers over the last eight games. He had made five in the prior 25 games
- Leads UK with 58 steals, which is already in the top four among all freshmen in school history
  - First player in school history with at least three steals in seven straight, a run that ended Jan. 22 vs. Mississippi State
  - Steals streak was the longest by a major-conference freshman since Chris Paul had a stretch of 10 straight games with three or more steals in 2003-04
- Leads team with 148 total assists
  - Dished a career-high 12 assists vs. Tennessee in the SEC Tournament semifinals, tied for the most in SEC Tournament history
  - UK is 6-1 when Hagans has seven or more assists
- Set all sorts of career highs in his return to Georgia, including points (23), rebounds (five), field goals (19) and minutes (35)
- Scored in double figures in five in a row between Dec. 29-Jan. 15, averaging 15.8 points per game
- Tied Rajon Rondo and Wayne Turner's school record with eight steals against North Carolina
- Forewent his final year of high school eligibility and enrolled at UK a year early
- Won both the Gatorade Georgia Player of the Year and the Mr. Georgia Basketball honor as a junior
  - Averaged 20.2 points, 10.7 assists, 7.6 assists, 3.6 steals while leading Newton to 7A state semifinals

Birthday: July 8
Parents: Monica Wheeler and Marvin Hagans
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Chill with teammates, play NBA2K, watch highlights, go out to eat and sleep

Did you know ...
He won a football little league state championship as a kid and is a cousin to former NFL player Ronnie Brown

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18	*	20	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	4	4	3	0	0	2	2.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18		13	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	3	3	2	0	0	0	1.0
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18		16	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.0	0	1	2	0	1	2	1.3
VMI	11/18/18		21	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	1.0	1	4	0	2	2	5	2.3
WINTHROP	11/21/18		16	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.2	2	1	3	0	1	2	2.2
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18		12	1-4	.250	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2.2
MONMOUTH	11/28/18		20	2-3	.667	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	1.1	1	3	2	0	1	7	2.9
UNCG	12/01/18		28	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	3-3	1.000	0	2	2	1.3	2	3	2	1	3	5	3.1
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18	*	30	3-7	.429	0-2	.000	2-3	.667	1	0	1	1.2	3	4	1	0	1	8	3.7
UTAH	12/15/18	*	23	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.1	1	7	2	0	1	2	3.5
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18	*	31	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	1	3	4	1.4	3	3	5	1	8	7	3.8
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18	*	24	5-11	.455	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	2	0	2	1.4	3	3	1	0	3	11	4.4
at Alabama	01/05/19	*	33	5-10	.500	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	1.5	2	6	2	0	3	12	5.0
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19	*	30	4-6	.667	0-1	.000	10-11	.909	0	1	1	1.5	1	5	1	0	5	18	5.9
VANDERBILT	01/12/19	*	33	7-9	.778	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1	3	4	1.7	1	4	5	0	3	15	6.5
at Georgia	01/15/19	*	35	9-18	.500	1-3	.333	4-5	.800	1	4	5	1.9	1	4	1	0	4	23	7.6
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19	*	35	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	0	7	7	2.2	2	6	3	0	3	6	7.5
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19	*	33	2-6	.333	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1	1	2	2.2	2	9	4	0	2	5	7.3
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19	*	35	4-11	.364	1-3	.333	3-5	.600	1	1	2	2.2	1	8	4	0	3	12	7.6
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19	*	30	3-5	.600	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1	5	6	2.4	3	8	1	0	1	7	7.6
at Florida	02/02/19	*	32	2-5	.400	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	5	5	2.5	1	4	3	0	2	6	7.5
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19	*	28	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0	0	0	2.4	2	4	6	0	3	2	7.2
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19	*	35	2-5	.400	1-3	.333	3-5	.600	2	2	4	2.4	1	9	3	0	1	8	7.3
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19	*	21	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.4	3	1	0	0	0	4	7.1
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19	*	36	3-6	.500	0-1	.000	3-5	.600	0	2	2	2.4	1	7	1	0	2	9	7.2
at Mizzou	02/19/19	*	33	3-5	.600	2-4	.500	4-4	1.000	0	0	0	2.3	2	2	4	0	0	12	7.4
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19	*	30	6-8	.750	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.2	0	5	3	0	1	14	7.6
ARKANSAS	02/26/19	*	36	2-4	.500	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	2.2	3	4	3	0	0	7	7.6
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19	*	36	2-6	.333	1-1	1.000	0-1	.000	1	4	5	2.3	2	3	2	0	1	5	7.5
at Ole Miss	03/05/19	*	30	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	4-5	.800	0	2	2	2.3	3	2	3	0	0	10	7.6
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19	*	30	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	7-9	.778	0	3	3	2.3	3	2	3	0	1	14	7.8
vs Alabama	03/15/19	*	29	1-6	.167	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	3	3	6	2.4	4	6	1	0	1	2	7.6
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19	*	38	4-9	.444	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	0	1	1	2.4	3	12	3	0	1	10	7.7
Totals		26	932	90-191	.471	13-44	.295	61-82	.744	18	61	79	2.4	64	148	80	4	58	254	7.7

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	33-26	932-28.2	90-191	.471	13-44	.295	61-82	.744	18-61-79-2.4	64-0	148	80	4	58	254	7.7
TOTAL	**33-26**	**932-28.2**	**90-191**	**.471**	**13-44**	**.295**	**61-82**	**.744**	**18-61-79-2.4**	**64-0**	**148**	**80**	**4**	**58**	**254**	**7.7**

3

KELDON JOHNSON

Freshman | Guard | 6-6 | 211 lbs | South Hill, Va. | Oak Hill Academy

@keldonjohnson

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	27, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Career	27, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Rebounds	
Season	17, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	17, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Field Goals	
Season	9, at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
Career	9, at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	18, at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
Career	18, at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	6, vs. UTAH (12/15/18)
Career	6, vs. UTAH (12/15/18)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	7, 2x last vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	7, 2x last vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Free Throws	
Season	13, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18))
Career	13, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	18, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Career	18, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Assists	
Season	5, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	5, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Steals	
Season	3, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	3, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Blocked Shots	
Season	1, 5x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	1, 5x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Minutes Played	
Season	43, vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Career	43, vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)

MISCELLANEOUS

	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	15	15
Double-Figure Scoring Games	24	24
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	4	4
Games With Double-Double	3	3
Games Led UK in Scoring	8	8
Games Led UK in Rebounding	7	7
Games Led UK in Assists	2	2
Games Led UK in Steals	8	8
Games Led UK in Blocks	1	1
Games With 3+ Assists	7	7
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	4	4
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	5	5

- SEC Freshman of the Year as voted by the league's coaches
- All-SEC Second Team (coaches and media)
- SEC All-Freshman Team
- Three-time SEC Freshman of the Week
- Poured in 22 points and added seven boards in a road win at Ole Miss
- Grabbed a career-high 17 rebounds in the home win vs. Auburn and added a career-high five assists
- Scored in double figures in 24 of 33 games and 20 or more in six games
- Averaging 16.1 points and 5.2 rebounds while shooting 53.1 percent in UK's nine games vs. AP Top 25 opponents
- Second on the team with 40 3-pointers and is shooting 38.8 percent from 3
  - UK is 5-0 this season when he makes at least three 3-pointers
- Posted his third double-double of the season with 15 points and 10 rebounds in the win vs. No. 9/10 Kansas. Hit three 3-pointers after halftime
- Scored 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting with two 3-pointers in the win at No. 14/12 Auburn
- Hit a buzzer-beater half-court shot to force overtime against Seton Hall
- Posted 24 points on 8-of-9 shooting with a career-high six 3-pointers vs. Utah
- Scored a career-high 27 points vs. Tennessee State and made 13 shots from the foul line
- His 23 points vs. Duke were tied for the fifth most in a debut in program history
- Averaged 22.1 points, 6.8 boards and 4.4 assists per game for Oak Hill Academy
- Virginia Gatorade High School Player of the Year

Birthday: Oct. 11
Parents: Rochelle and Chris
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Play Fortnite, hang out with friends, spend time with family, fish and go to amusement parks

Did you know ...
He was a member of the National Honor Society in high school and he wishes he had the talent to dance well

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18	*	30	8-16	.500	1-3	.333	6-10	.600	1	3	4	4.0	3	2	0	1	1	23	23.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18	*	32	5-10	.500	0-3	.000	5-7	.714	0	4	4	4.0	1	2	3	0	1	15	19.0
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18	*	34	3-4	.750	0-0	.000	6-8	.750	3	7	10	6.0	2	1	0	0	0	12	16.7
VMI	11/18/18	*	25	4-8	.500	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	2	1	3	5.3	2	2	1	0	1	9	14.8
WINTHROP	11/21/18	*	26	4-10	.400	2-5	.400	3-6	.500	1	6	7	5.6	2	1	2	0	1	13	14.4
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18	*	35	7-15	.467	0-2	.000	13-18	.722	3	4	7	5.8	4	0	2	0	0	27	16.5
MONMOUTH	11/28/18	*	31	5-9	.556	1-3	.333	4-5	.800	0	3	3	5.4	1	2	4	0	0	15	16.3
UNCG	12/01/18	*	31	4-7	.571	1-1	1.000	4-6	.667	2	9	11	6.1	1	2	2	0	1	13	15.9
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18	*	43	4-9	.444	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	1	4	5	6.0	3	1	3	0	0	10	15.2
UTAH	12/15/18	*	33	8-9	.889	6-7	.857	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	5.6	2	0	2	0	1	24	16.1
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18	*	23	7-11	.636	4-7	.571	3-4	.750	0	3	3	5.4	5	3	1	0	3	21	16.5
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18	*	34	5-13	.385	1-5	.200	4-4	1.000	1	6	7	5.5	2	2	2	0	1	15	16.4
at Alabama	01/05/19	*	30	5-10	.500	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	1	6	7	5.6	3	4	1	0	3	13	16.2
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19	*	27	2-9	.222	0-4	.000	4-4	1.000	2	4	6	5.6	1	2	4	0	0	8	15.6
VANDERBILT	01/12/19	*	24	6-8	.750	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	5.3	5	1	4	0	0	15	15.5
at Georgia	01/15/19	*	27	0-6	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	5.2	1	2	2	0	1	0	14.6
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19	*	28	7-11	.636	2-5	.400	4-7	.571	2	1	3	5.1	1	0	1	0	0	20	14.9
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19	*	26	4-8	.500	0-1	.000	1-1	1.000	0	5	5	5.1	5	2	2	1	3	9	14.6
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19	*	32	5-9	.556	3-4	.750	2-2	1.000	2	8	10	5.3	3	0	0	0	0	15	14.6
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19	*	23	3-6	.500	3-4	.750	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	5.1	3	2	1	0	0	11	14.4
at Florida	02/02/19	*	30	4-13	.308	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	2	6	8	5.2	2	1	1	0	0	10	14.2
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19	*	31	2-9	.222	0-3	.000	5-6	.833	2	4	6	5.2	0	0	0	0	0	9	14.0
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19	*	28	4-10	.400	1-3	.333	4-4	1.000	0	7	7	5.3	3	0	1	0	1	13	13.9
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19	*	36	5-10	.500	1-2	.500	5-9	.556	0	5	5	5.3	0	3	0	0	1	16	14.0
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19	*	33	8-14	.571	3-6	.500	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5.2	1	1	2	0	1	19	14.2
at Mizzou	02/19/19	*	35	1-6	.167	0-2	.000	3-3	1.000	2	4	6	5.3	2	1	0	0	1	5	13.8
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19	*	29	3-8	.375	0-2	.000	2-4	.500	3	14	17	5.7	2	5	2	0	0	8	13.6
ARKANSAS	02/26/19	*	37	5-14	.357	0-1	.000	3-6	.500	3	3	6	5.7	2	3	3	1	0	13	13.6
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19	*	31	2-9	.222	1-5	.200	2-4	.500	2	5	7	5.8	3	1	3	0	0	7	13.4
at Ole Miss	03/05/19	*	38	9-18	.500	1-2	.500	3-7	.429	2	5	7	5.8	1	3	1	0	1	22	13.7
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19		34	4-8	.500	1-1	1.000	5-7	.714	1	6	7	5.8	1	3	2	1	0	14	13.7
vs Alabama	03/15/19	*	22	1-7	.143	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	5.8	4	1	2	1	3	4	13.4
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19	*	35	6-10	.600	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	1	5	6	5.8	2	0	2	0	1	15	13.4
Totals		32	1013	150-324	.463	40-103	.388	103-146	.705	42	148	190	5.8	73	53	56	5	26	443	13.4

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	33-32	1013-30.7	150-324	.463	40-103	.388	103-146	.705	42-148-190-5.8	73-3	53	56	5	26	443	13.4
TOTAL	**33-32**	**1013-30.7**	**150-324**	**.463**	**40-103**	**.388**	**103-146**	**.705**	**42-148-190-5.8**	**73-3**	**53**	**56**	**5**	**26**	**443**	**13.4**

4 NICK RICHARDS

Sophomore | Forward | 6-11 | 240 lbs | Kingston, Jamaica | Patrick School

@iamnickrichards | @nickrichards_ | @iamnickrichards

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	14, at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Career	25, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Rebounds	
Season	19, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Career	19, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Field Goals	
Season	4, 2x, last at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Career	9, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	8, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Career	10, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	-
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	-
Free Throws	
Season	6, 2x, last at TENNESSEE (3/2/19)
Career	7, vs. FORT WAYNE (11/22/17)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	10, at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Career	10, at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Assists	
Season	2, at Alabama (1/5/19)
Career	2, 2x, last at Alabama (1/5/19)
Steals	
Season	1, 4x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	1, 7x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Blocked Shots	
Season	5, vs. KANSAS (1/26/19)
Career	5, vs. KANSAS (1/26/19)
Minutes Played	
Season	27, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Career	27, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)

MISCELLANEOUS

	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	22	50
Double-Figure Scoring Games	2	9
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	2	3
Games With Double-Double	0	1
Games Led UK in Scoring	0	1
Games Led UK in Rebounding	4	12
Games Led UK in Assists	0	0
Games Led UK in Steals	0	0
Games Led UK in Blocks	14	26
Games With 3+ Assists	0	0
Games With 3+ Blocks	8	12
Games With 3+ Steals	0	0
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- Posted seven points, 15 rebounds and three blocks in the win vs. Arkansas in the SEC Tournament
- Leads the team with 45 blocks
  - Blocked three shots in three of the five games Reid Travis missed due to injury
  - Blocked a combined nine shots in 23 minutes across the Kansas and Vanderbilt games to conclude January
- Scored a season-high 14 points at Vanderbilt on Jan. 30 on 4-of-5 shooting and 6 of 10 at the free-throw line
- Turned in a solid 10 minutes vs. Mississippi State on Jan. 22, totaling eight points, six rebounds and a blocked shot. His eight points were his best since 10 vs. Winthrop on Nov. 21
- Grabbed six rebounds and blocked two shots in 10 minutes vs. North Carolina
- Played one of the best games of his career vs. Southern Illinois with eight points, a career-high 19 rebounds and a career-high-tying three blocks
  - The 19 rebounds were the most by a UK player since Michael Kidd-Gilchrist hauled in 19 boards vs. Louisville on Dec. 31, 2011. The 19 rebounds also matched SIU's team total
- Averaged 11.5 points, 5.2 rebounds with a team-high-tying 10 blocks in the six exhibition games
- Scored in double figures seven times during his freshman season and started all 37 games
  - Averaged 5.1 points, 4.4 rebounds and 0.9 blocks per game a season ago
  - Finished second on the team in blocks with 33 and fourth in total rebounds with 163
- Double-double (25 points, 15 rebounds) vs. Fort Wayne
  - Became the third UK player in the Calipari era with 25 points and 15 rebounds in a game (Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame, 12/8/10); DeMarcus Cousins vs. Sam Houston State, 11/19/09)
- Has the top wingspan on the team at 7-foot-5
- 2017 Mr. New Jersey Basketball

Birthday: Nov. 29
Mother: Marion Tenn
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Play FIFA (video game), shop for sneakers, shop for clothes, watch movies, and hang out with friends and family

Did you know ...
He's the second UK player to hail from the Patrick School, joining Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. He's also a soccer enthusiast

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18		13	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	2.0	3	0	3	1	0	0	0.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18		27	3-8	.375	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	9	10	19	10.5	2	1	3	3	0	8	4.0
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18		16	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	7.7	5	0	2	2	0	2	3.3
VMI	11/18/18		8	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	6.3	1	0	0	0	0	6	4.0
WINTHROP	11/21/18	*	12	4-4	1.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	0	1	5.2	2	0	2	2	0	10	5.2
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18	*	10	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	4.5	2	0	0	0	0	2	4.7
MONMOUTH	11/28/18		9	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	0	2	4.1	3	0	0	3	0	6	4.9
UNCG	12/01/18		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.6	1	0	1	1	0	0	4.3
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18		12	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	3	5	3.8	1	0	0	0	0	3	4.1
UTAH	12/15/18		12	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.6	3	0	0	1	0	0	3.7
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18		10	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	5	6	3.8	1	0	0	2	0	2	3.5
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18		7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.8	1	0	0	1	0	0	3.3
at Alabama	01/05/19		13	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	1	3	3.7	0	2	0	1	0	1	3.1
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19		11	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	0	1	1	3.5	2	0	0	2	0	5	3.2
VANDERBILT	01/12/19		10	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	3.3	1	0	0	0	1	2	3.1
at Georgia	01/15/19		15	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	4	3	7	3.6	1	0	0	3	0	4	3.2
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19		10	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	3.4	3	1	0	0	1	1	3.1
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19		10	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	4-8	.500	5	1	6	3.6	3	0	0	1	0	8	3.3
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19		9	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	3.4	1	1	1	5	0	0	3.2
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19		19	4-5	.800	0-0	.000	6-10	.600	0	1	1	3.3	3	0	0	4	0	14	3.7
at Florida	02/02/19		5	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.1	1	0	2	0	0	0	3.5
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19		11	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	2	4	3.2	4	0	1	0	1	4	3.5
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19		7	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	3.1	2	0	1	1	0	2	3.5
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19		3	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	0	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.4
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19		6	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	0	2	2.9	4	0	1	1	0	3	3.4
at Mizzou	02/19/19		13	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	3	1	4	3.0	2	0	1	0	0	7	3.5
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19		20	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	3.0	2	1	0	3	1	4	3.5
ARKANSAS	02/26/19		25	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	5	10	15	3.4	4	0	2	3	0	7	3.6
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19	*	26	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	6-9	.667	4	3	7	3.5	4	1	1	3	0	8	3.8
at Ole Miss	03/05/19		18	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	3	4	3.5	5	0	1	1	0	6	3.9
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19		9	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	2	0	2	3.5	1	0	0	0	0	3	3.8
vs Alabama	03/15/19		12	3-4	.750	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	1	2	3	3.5	1	0	1	1	0	9	4.0
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19		10	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	2	4	3.5	1	0	1	0	0	6	4.1
Totals		3	399	45-77	.584	0-0	.000	44-64	.688	54	61	115	3.5	70	7	24	45	4	134	4.1

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	37-37	543-14.7	69-112	.616	0-0	.000	51-71	.718	55-108-163-4.4	76-1	9	26	33	3	189	5.1
2018-19	33-3	399-12.1	45-77	.584	0-0	.000	44-64	.688	54-61-115-3.5	70-2	7	24	45	4	134	4.1
TOTAL	**70-40**	**942-13.5**	**114-189**	**.603**	**0-0**	**.000**	**95-135**	**.704**	**109-169-278-4.0**	**146-3**	**16**	**50**	**78**	**7**	**323**	**4.6**

5 IMMANUEL QUICKLEY

Freshman | Guard | 6-3 | 185 lbs | Havre de Grace, Md. | John Carroll School

@IQ_GodSon | @immanuelquickley_

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	15, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Career	15, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Rebounds	
Season	6, vs. WINTHROP (11/21/18)
Career	6, vs. WINTHROP (11/21/18)
Field Goals	
Season	6, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Career	6, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	10, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
Career	10, vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	3, 2x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	3, 2x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	7, vs. VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
Career	7, vs. VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
Free Throws	
Season	8, vs. NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Career	8, vs. NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	10, vs. NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Career	10, vs. NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Assists	
Season	4, 2x, last vs. S. CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	4, 2x, last vs. S. CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Steals	
Season	3, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Career	3, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Blocked Shots	
Season	1, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	1, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Minutes Played	
Season	31, 2x, last vs. WINTHROP (11/21/18)
Career	31, 2x, last vs. WINTHROP (11/21/18)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	1	1
Double-Figure Scoring Games	6	6
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	0	0
Games With Double-Double	0	0
Games Led UK in Scoring	1	1
Games Led UK in Rebounding	0	0
Games Led UK in Assists	1	1
Games Led UK in Steals	1	1
Games Led UK in Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Assists	3	3
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	1	1
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	2	2

- Calipari on Quickley's recent play: "Immanuel has probably improved as much as anyone on this team. He's so much better. ... He spreads the floor out."
- UK is 6-0 this season when he scores in double figures
- Had a 12-point performance in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals vs. Alabama. He went 4 of 4 from the field, including making all three 3-point attempts
- Scored eight points on 3-of-5 shooting (2 of 4 from 3-point range) at Tennessee, which at the time was his best scoring output since he scored 12 on Jan. 12 against Vanderbilt
- Scored a combined 30 points over a three-game stretch between Jan. 5-12, including at least two 3-pointers during that stretch and a career-high three vs. Vanderbilt
- 83.9 percent at the line, including two under pressure at the end of both the Arkansas and Ole Miss games to clinch victories
- Scored 12 points in the win over Utah on 4-of-7 shooting with two 3-pointers
- Had 12 points and a season-high four assists to couple with two steals vs. North Dakota
- Scored a team-high-tying 15 points in the win vs. Southern Illinois
  - Made 6 of 10 from the floor, including 2 of 4 from 3
- Went a perfect 6 for 6 from the line against Duke
- Dished out a team-high 24 assists with just three turnovers over the six exhibition games
  - Averaged 7.3 points, 4.5 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game in the four Bahamas exhibition games
  - Had four or more assists in all four wins in the Bahamas
  - Scored 12 points with five assists and a steal against Mega Bemax
- Two-time state champion at the John Carroll School

Birthday: June 17
Parents: Nitrease and Marcellous
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Play the drums, watch movies, go to church, dance and play video games

Did you know ...
An honor-roll student in high school, he also excels musically and can play the saxaphone, the piano and the drums

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18		19	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	6-6	1.000	0	1	1	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	6	6.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18	*	31	6-10	.600	2-4	.500	1-1	1.000	0	4	4	2.5	2	0	2	0	2	15	10.5
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18	*	27	2-5	.400	0-2	.000	8-10	.800	0	1	1	2.0	0	4	0	0	2	12	11.0
VMI	11/18/18	*	27	0-4	.000	0-3	.000	6-6	1.000	0	1	1	1.8	0	2	1	0	1	6	9.8
WINTHROP	11/21/18	*	31	1-1	1.000	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0	6	6	2.6	3	3	1	0	0	3	8.4
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18	*	26	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	1	0	1	2.3	0	2	1	0	0	9	8.5
MONMOUTH	11/28/18	*	20	1-3	.333	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	2.3	0	2	2	0	0	4	7.9
UNCG	12/01/18	*	17	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	2.1	1	1	1	0	0	1	7.0
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18		26	3-6	.500	2-3	.667	0-2	.000	0	1	1	2.0	1	2	1	0	0	8	7.1
UTAH	12/15/18		23	4-7	.571	2-3	.667	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	1.9	3	2	1	0	0	12	7.6
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18		15	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	2.0	2	1	3	1	0	2	7.1
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18		18	1-3	.333	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.9	3	2	2	0	2	2	6.7
at Alabama	01/05/19		15	3-5	.600	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.9	1	0	1	0	0	8	6.8
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19		13	4-4	1.000	2-2	1.000	0-1	.000	0	1	1	1.9	0	2	0	0	3	10	7.0
VANDERBILT	01/12/19		20	4-9	.444	3-7	.429	1-2	.500	0	0	0	1.7	0	0	0	0	0	12	7.3
at Georgia	01/15/19		13	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.6	2	2	0	0	1	2	7.0
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19		14	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	1.6	1	1	0	0	1	5	6.9
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19		17	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	1.7	1	1	1	0	0	5	6.8
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19		11	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.6	0	0	2	0	0	0	6.4
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19		18	2-5	.400	1-3	.333	1-1	1.000	0	2	2	1.7	3	1	0	0	0	6	6.4
at Florida	02/02/19		16	1-6	.167	1-5	.200	4-5	.800	0	1	1	1.6	0	1	0	0	1	7	6.4
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19		19	0-3	.000	0-1	.000	3-4	.750	0	3	3	1.7	0	4	1	0	1	3	6.3
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19		12	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19		21	1-5	.200	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	4	4	1.8	3	1	3	0	0	3	5.9
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19		12	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.7	2	1	2	0	0	0	5.6
at Mizzou	02/19/19		11	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.6	0	1	0	0	0	3	5.5
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19		22	2-3	.667	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	3	3	1.7	2	0	1	0	0	5	5.5
ARKANSAS	02/26/19		15	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	1.6	2	1	2	0	0	2	5.4
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19		20	3-5	.600	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0	4	4	1.7	0	0	0	0	0	8	5.5
at Ole Miss	03/05/19		19	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	1.7	1	2	0	0	0	5	5.5
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19		20	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	0	3	3	1.8	3	1	1	0	0	4	5.4
vs Alabama	03/15/19		18	4-4	1.000	3-3	1.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	1.8	2	0	1	0	0	12	5.6
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19		9	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	1.8	1	1	0	0	0	2	5.5
Totals		7	615	51-128	.398	27-74	.365	53-64	.828	2	57	59	1.8	41	42	31	1	14	182	5.5

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	33-7	615-18.6	51-128	.398	27-74	.365	53-64	.828	2-57-59-1.8	41-0	42	31	1	14	182	5.5
TOTAL	**33-7**	**615-18.6**	**51-128**	**.398**	**27-74**	**.365**	**53-64**	**.828**	**2-57-59-1.8**	**41-0**	**42**	**31**	**1**	**14**	**182**	**5.5**

10

JONNY DAVID

Senior | Guard | 6-2 | 188 lbs | Pittsburgh | Mt. Lebanon

@JonnyDavid | @jdavid010 | @JonnyDavidUK10

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	-
Career	5, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
Rebounds	
Season	1, vs. NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Career	1, vs. NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	1, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	1, 4X, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	1, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	1, 3x, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
Free Throws	
Season	-
Career	2, 2x, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	-
Career	2, 3x, last vs. TEXAS A&M (1/3/17)
Assists	
Season	-
Career	-
Steals	
Season	-
Career	-
Blocked Shots	
Season	-
Career	-
Minutes Played	
Season	2, 3x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	3, vs. CLEVELAND STATE (11/23/16)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	0	0
Double-Figure Scoring Games	0	0
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	0	0
Games With Double-Double	0	0
Games Led UK in Scoring	0	0
Games Led UK in Rebounding	0	0
Games Led UK in Assists	0	0
Games Led UK in Steals	0	0
Games Led UK in Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Assists	0	0
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	0	0
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- 2019 SEC Community Service Team
- Seen action in nine games this season, including starting the first game of his career on Senior Day vs. Florida on March 9
- Snared his first career rebound, on the offensive end, in two minutes against North Dakota
- Played two minutes vs. Auburn, Monmouth and North Dakota
- As a member of UK's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, played a key role in UK's relationship with the Special Olympics, including helping organize fan participation in the Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics of Kentucky
- Saw action in UK's final two Bahamas exhibition games
  - Scored the game's final bucket in the win over Team Toronto
  - Hauled in a rebound vs. Mega Bemax
- Seen action in 31 career games and scored seven career points
- SEC Academic Honor Roll member the past three seasons
- On pace to graduate in May with a degree in kinesiology
- 1,000-point scorer in high school
- His father was a letterwinner at the University of Pittsburgh while head coach John Calipari was an assistant coach

Birthday: Nov. 7
Parents: Joseph and Sandi
Major: Kinesiology

Off the court he likes to ...
Hang out with family and friends, play video games, watch Netflix/movies, go on adventures, and travel

Did you know ...
He averaged 18.5 points as a senior and knocked down the winning shot on senior night to win a sectional title

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
VMI	11/18/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WINTHROP	11/21/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MONMOUTH	11/28/18		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
UNCG	12/01/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UTAH	12/15/18		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Alabama	01/05/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VANDERBILT	01/12/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Georgia	01/15/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
at Florida	02/02/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Mizzou	02/19/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19		2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
ARKANSAS	02/26/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Ole Miss	03/05/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19	*	1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
vs Alabama	03/15/19		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		1	12	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2015-16	11-0	11-1.0	0-2	.00	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0-0-0-0.0	1-0	0	1	0	0	2	0.2
2016-17	7-0	11-1.6	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	2-4	.500	0-0-0-0.0	0-0	0	3	0	0	5	0.7
2017-18	6-0	4-0.7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0-0-0.0	1-0	0	2	0	0	0	0.0
2018-19	9-1	12-1.3	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-0-1-0.1	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	**33-1**	**38-1.2**	**1-4**	**.250**	**1-3**	**.333**	**4-6**	**.667**	**1-0-1-0.0**	**2-0**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**0.2**

12

BRAD CALIPARI

Junior | Guard | 6-0 | 179 lbs | Franklin Lakes, N.J. | MacDuffie School

@bradcalipari | @brad.calipari | @bradcalipari

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	-
Career	3, 3x, last vs. MISSOURI (2/24/18)
Rebounds	
Season	-
Career	1, 5x, last at Texas A&M (2/10/18)
Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	1, 3x, last vs. MISSOURI (2/24/18)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	3, 2x, last vs. Arizona State (11/28/16)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	1, 3x, last vs. MISSOURI (2/24/18)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	3, vs. CLEVELAND STATE (11/23/16)
Free Throws	
Season	-
Career	2, vs. CANISIUS (11/13/16)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	-
Career	3, vs. CANISIUS (11/13/16)
Assists	
Season	-
Career	1, 2x, last vs. LOUISVILLE (12/29/17)
Steals	
Season	-
Career	-
Blocked Shots	
Season	-
Career	1, vs. CLEVELAND STATE (11/23/16)
Minutes Played	
Season	-
Career	8, vs. CLEVELAND STATE (11/23/16)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	0	0
Double-Figure Scoring Games	0	0
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	0	0
Games With Double-Double	0	0
Games Led UK in Scoring	0	0
Games Led UK in Rebounding	0	0
Games Led UK in Assists	0	0
Games Led UK in Steals	0	0
Games Led UK in Blocks	0	1
Games With 3+ Assists	0	0
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	0	0
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- Pronunciation: cal-uh-PEAR-ee
- Plans to redshirt in 2018-19 and will have two years of eligibility remaining
- On track to graduate this season. Plans to pursue graduate school
- Totaled eight minutes in UK's exhibition against Transylvania
- Played in all four games in the Bahamas. He drained a 3-pointer against the Bahamas National Team and had a rebound in three of the four wins
  - Also dished out an assist against Team Toronto
- Has been a part of two international basketball trips with Global Sports Academy
  - Averaged 14.3 points, 6.5 assists and 3.3 rebounds in four games in Croatia in 2017
  - Averaged 13.2 points and 7.0 assists in four games in Europe in 2018
- Two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll member
- Played in 15 games as a freshman, scoring eight points. Saw action in 12 games and recorded three points and two boards as a sophomore
- Averaged 15.3 points, 3.6 assists and 2.6 rebounds per game as a senior in high school
- Finished his high school career as a 1,000-point scorer

Birthday: Nov. 11
Parents: John and Ellen
Major: Communication

Off the court he likes to ...
Play Fortnite, sleep, watch Spongebob Squarepants, cook and listen to music

Did you know ...
He earned academic honors in high schoola for art, specializing in drawing. His definition of a true hero is anyone who is a servant leader

Game-By-Game Statistics

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2016-17	15-0	45-3.0	2-13	.154	2-12	.167	2-5	.400	1-2-3-0.2	3-0	1	2	1	0	8	0.5
2017-18	12-0	28-2.3	1-7	.143	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0-2-2-0.2	0-0	1	2	0	0	3	0.3
2018-19	0-0	0-0.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0-0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	**27-0**	**73-2.7**	**3-20**	**.150**	**3-19**	**.158**	**2-5**	**.400**	**1-4-5-0.2**	**3-0**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**11**	**0.4**

13

JEMARL BAKER JR.

Redshirt Freshman | Guard | 6-4 | 192 lbs | Menifee, Calif. | Eleanor Roosevelt

@jemarlbakerjr | @jemarlbakerjr_

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	6, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	6, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Rebounds	
Season	3, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	3, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Field Goals	
Season	2, 5x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	2, 5x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	6, at Florida (2/2/19)
Career	6, at Florida (2/2/19)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	2, 3x, last at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Career	2, 3x, last at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	4, 2x, last at Florida (2/2/19)
Career	4, 2x, last at Florida (2/2/19)
Free Throws	
Season	1, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	1, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	2, 3x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	2, 3x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Assists	
Season	3, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Career	3, vs. TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
Steals	
Season	1, 2x, last at Mississippi State (2/9/19)
Career	1, 2x, last at Mississippi State (2/9/19)
Blocked Shots	
Season	1, 2x, last vs. TENNESSEE (2/16/19)
Career	1, 2x, last vs. TENNESSEE (2/16/19)
Minutes Played	
Season	19, at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Career	19, at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	0	0
Double-Figure Scoring Games	0	0
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	0	0
Games With Double-Double	0	0
Games Led UK in Scoring	0	0
Games Led UK in Rebounding	0	0
Games Led UK in Assists	0	0
Games Led UK in Steals	1	1
Games Led UK in Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Assists	1	1
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	0	0
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- Pronunciation: like Jamal
- Has become a key contributor off the bench with shot-making ability and solid defense
- Tied his career high with six points in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals vs. Alabama
- Went 2 for 2 from 3-point range at Georgia on Jan. 15 and at Vanderbilt on Jan. 29
- Logged 13 key minutes vs. Texas A&M that included a four-point play, a career-high three assists and solid defense
  - Calipari said Baker's ability to be a "willing passer" changed "the whole complexion of the game"
- Played a then career-high 15 minutes vs. North Carolina
- Heeding the advice of Coach Cal to shoot the ball when he gets his opportunity, made back-to-back 3-pointers in two minutes vs. Utah
- Made his debut against Seton Hall, entering the game in the last minute of the first half
- Did not participate in any of the four Bahamas exhibition game with knee soreness
- Returned to practice after the Bahamas and scored 12 points in the Blue-White Game
- Dean's List in fall of 2017 and an SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll member
- Redshirted in 2017-18 after undergoing knee surgery in October
- Considered one of the premier shooters in the country with range that extends beyond the college 3-point arc

Birthday: June 12
Parents: Jemarl Sr. and Portia
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Shop, play video games, eat, watch movies and listen to music

Did you know ...
His dad played basketball at Cal State Northridge and his sister Anyia played hoops at Grand Canyon University

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VMI	11/18/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WINTHROP	11/21/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MONMOUTH	11/28/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNCG	12/01/18		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18		1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
UTAH	12/15/18		2	2-2	1.000	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	6	3.0
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18		15	0-3	.000	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	0	1	1	1	0	0	2.0
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18		8	1-4	.250	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.5	1	0	1	0	0	3	2.3
at Alabama	01/05/19		6	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.8
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19		13	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	0	1	1	0.5	2	3	1	0	0	4	2.2
VANDERBILT	01/12/19		7	0-3	.000	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.9
at Georgia	01/15/19		13	2-3	.667	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	1	1	2	0	1	6	2.4
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19		8	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.6	1	0	1	0	0	0	2.1
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19		6	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1.9
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19		4	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.7
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19		19	2-2	1.000	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.6	3	1	0	0	0	6	2.1
at Florida	02/02/19		15	1-6	.167	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	0	2	0	0	0	2	2.1
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19		11	2-3	.667	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	3	3	0.7	1	0	0	0	0	5	2.3
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19		12	1-3	.333	0-2	.000	1-2	.500	0	0	0	0.7	0	1	0	0	1	3	2.3
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19		3	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.2
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19		8	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.6	0	0	0	1	0	0	2.1
at Mizzou	02/19/19		7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	0	1	1	0.6	1	0	1	0	0	0	1.9
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19		12	1-4	.250	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.6	1	0	0	0	0	2	1.9
ARKANSAS	02/26/19		4	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	0	0	0.6	1	0	1	0	0	1	1.9
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19		5	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.6	0	1	0	0	0	3	2.0
at Ole Miss	03/05/19		5	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	3	1	0	0	0	2	2.0
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19		2	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1.9
vs Alabama	03/15/19		14	2-3	.667	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	0	0	0	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	6	2.0
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		0	200	17-51	.333	11-38	.289	4-8	.500	1	11	12	0.5	19	11	9	2	2	49	2.0

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	24-0	200-8.3	17-51	.333	11-38	.289	4-8	.500	1-11-12-0.5	19-0	11	9	2	2	49	2.0
TOTAL	**24-0**	**200-8.3**	**17-51**	**.333**	**11-38**	**.289**	**4-8**	**.500**	**1-11-12-0.5**	**19-0**	**11**	**9**	**2**	**2**	**49**	**2.0**

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TYLER HERRO

Freshman | Guard | 6-5 | 195 lbs | Milwaukee | Whitnall

@raf_tyler | @nolimitherro

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	29, vs. ARKANSAS (2/26/19)
Career	29, vs. ARKANSAS (2/26/19)
Rebounds	
Season	13, vs. TENNESSEE (2/16/19)
Career	13, vs. TENNESSEE (2/16/19)
Field Goals	
Season	10, at Louisville (12/29/18)
Career	10, at Louisville (12/29/18)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	17, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	17, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	5, vs. ARKANSAS (2/26/19)
Career	5, vs. ARKANSAS (2/26/19)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	8, 2x, last. vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	8, 2x, last. vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Free Throws	
Season	8, 2x last at Missouri (2/19/19)
Career	8, 2x last at Missouri (2/19/19)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	9, vs. TENNESSEE (2/16/19)
Career	9, vs. TENNESSEE (2/16/19)
Assists	
Season	7, vs. WINTHROP (11/21/18)
Career	7, vs. WINTHROP (11/21/18)
Steals	
Season	5, 2x, last vs. MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
Career	5, 2x, last vs. MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
Blocked Shots	
Season	2, 2x, last vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Career	2, 2x, last vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18
Minutes Played	
Season	39, vs. LSU (2/12/19)
Career	39, vs. LSU (2/12/19)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	4	4
Double-Figure Scoring Games	27	27
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	1	1
Games With Double-Double	1	1
Games Led UK in Scoring	9	9
Games Led UK in Rebounding	4	4
Games Led UK in Assists	5	5
Games Led UK in Steals	10	10
Games Led UK in Blocks	3	3
Games With 3+ Assists	13	13
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	4	4
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	9	9

- Pronunciation: Hero
- SEC Newcomer of the Year, as voted on by the Associated Press
- All-SEC Second Team and SEC All-Freshman Team by the league's coaches
- Three-time SEC Freshman of the Week
- Scored 20 or more in three of the last six
- UK is 9-0 this season when Herro makes at least three 3-pointers and 18-0 when he scores at least 15
- Scored a career-high 29 points Feb. 26 vs. Arkansas. He was 9 for 10 from the floor, 5 of 6 from behind the arc (the five 3-pointers were a career best) and 6 of 6 at the foul line. Also posted three assists, two steals
- Earned his first career double-double with 15 points and a career-high 13 boards in win over No. 1 UT
- Averaged 15.5 points on 50.5 percent shooting on the road, scoring at least 12 in nine of the 10 games
- Only freshman in the country to average at least 15.0 points on the road while shooting at least 50.0 percent, at least 35.0 percent from 3 and at least 90 percent from the line
- Scored 20 points, including 15 in the second half with the game-winning free throws, in a win at No. 14/12 Auburn
- Leads Kentucky in 3-pointers made (57) and second on the team in steals (36)
- Reached double figures in a team-high 27 games
- Made 62 of his last 63 free throws and is shooting 94.0 percent from the line overall
- Led the Wildcats with 19 points at Florida, keeping UK afloat during a cold-shooting first half and then providing a big 3-pointer late in the game
- Scored a then career-high 24 to win Bluegrass Sports Commission MVP of the Louisville game
- USBWA Wayman Tisdale National Freshman of the Week and NCAA.com National Player of the Week for the week of Dec. 31 after the Louisville game

Birthday: Jan. 20
Parents: Jen and Chris
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Play video games, eat, hang out with friends, spend time with family and ride roller coasters

Did you know ...
His nickname is "Boy Wonder" and he chose No. 14 because he's been wearing it since his freshman year in high school

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18	*	33	4-11	.364	1-6	.167	5-5	1.000	0	9	9	9.0	1	5	1	2	0	14	14.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18	*	20	0-6	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	6.0	1	0	1	0	1	0	7.0
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18	*	25	7-12	.583	1-2	.500	3-3	1.000	0	1	1	4.3	0	3	2	0	5	18	10.7
VMI	11/18/18	*	19	2-6	.333	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.8	2	2	2	1	0	5	9.3
WINTHROP	11/21/18	*	25	6-14	.429	3-8	.375	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.6	1	7	1	0	0	15	10.4
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18	*	25	3-7	.429	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	0	4	4	3.7	1	0	2	0	1	8	10.0
MONMOUTH	11/28/18	*	28	6-10	.600	2-5	.400	2-2	1.000	1	7	8	4.3	1	1	0	0	5	16	10.9
UNCG	12/01/18	*	35	6-12	.500	2-6	.333	4-6	.667	1	4	5	4.4	3	1	3	1	0	18	11.8
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18	*	26	4-13	.308	0-6	.000	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	4.1	3	1	1	2	0	10	11.6
UTAH	12/15/18	*	31	7-12	.583	2-6	.333	1-2	.500	0	2	2	3.9	0	1	0	0	2	17	12.1
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18	*	36	6-17	.353	3-8	.375	0-1	.000	1	3	4	3.9	2	5	3	0	1	15	12.4
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18	*	36	10-13	.769	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	1	4	5	4.0	2	1	2	1	2	24	13.3
at Alabama	01/05/19	*	35	4-12	.333	2-6	.333	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	3.9	2	0	1	0	0	12	13.2
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19	*	36	7-14	.500	3-7	.429	4-4	1.000	2	3	5	4.0	3	1	4	0	0	21	13.8
VANDERBILT	01/12/19	*	36	1-3	.333	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	6	6	4.1	2	3	3	1	0	4	13.1
at Georgia	01/15/19	*	31	4-10	.400	0-2	.000	4-4	1.000	1	6	7	4.3	0	4	1	0	1	12	13.1
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19	*	34	6-12	.500	3-6	.500	5-5	1.000	0	3	3	4.2	2	4	3	0	1	20	13.5
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19	*	37	5-10	.500	3-3	1.000	5-5	1.000	0	5	5	4.3	1	1	2	0	1	18	13.7
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19	*	38	2-9	.222	0-4	.000	2-2	1.000	0	5	5	4.3	1	4	3	0	0	6	13.3
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19	*	29	6-13	.462	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	4.3	0	2	1	0	3	12	13.3
at Florida	02/02/19	*	30	6-8	.750	3-4	.750	4-4	1.000	1	5	6	4.3	3	2	3	0	1	19	13.5
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19	*	29	5-11	.455	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	3	3	4.3	2	1	1	0	0	11	13.4
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19	*	33	5-9	.556	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0	2	2	4.2	0	1	1	0	0	12	13.3
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19	*	39	5-13	.385	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	0	1	1	4.0	3	4	1	1	1	12	13.3
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19	*	32	3-11	.273	1-3	.333	8-9	.889	2	11	13	4.4	0	3	1	0	1	15	13.4
at Mizzou	02/19/19	*	35	4-9	.444	2-6	.333	8-8	1.000	0	5	5	4.4	0	2	1	0	1	18	13.5
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19	*	29	6-12	.500	3-6	.500	2-2	1.000	0	4	4	4.4	0	2	0	0	0	17	13.7
ARKANSAS	02/26/19	*	36	9-10	.900	5-6	.833	6-6	1.000	0	4	4	4.4	1	3	1	1	2	29	14.2
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19	*	35	2-11	.182	0-5	.000	2-2	1.000	0	6	6	4.4	1	3	5	0	0	6	13.9
at Ole Miss	03/05/19	*	38	8-12	.667	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	0	5	5	4.5	1	2	0	0	3	20	14.1
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19	*	38	6-11	.545	0-1	.000	4-4	1.000	0	6	6	4.5	1	2	0	0	1	16	14.2
vs Alabama	03/15/19	*	36	8-14	.571	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	0	6	6	4.6	0	2	3	1	2	20	14.4
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19	*	38	4-9	.444	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	0	3	3	4.5	1	4	1	0	1	10	14.2
Totals			33	1063	167-356	.469	57-153	.373	79-84	.940	11	138	149	4.5	41	77	54	11	36	470	14.2

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	33-33	1063-32.2	167-356	.469	57-153	.373	79-84	.940	11-138-149-4.5	41-0	77	54	11	36	470	14.2
TOTAL	**33-33**	**1063-32.2**	**167-356**	**.469**	**57-153**	**.373**	**79-84**	**.940**	**11-138-149-4.5**	**41-0**	**77**	**54**	**11**	**36**	**470**	**14.2**

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ZAN PAYNE

Freshman | Guard/Forward | 6-4 | 240 lbs | Lexington, Ky. | Lexington Catholic

@young_payne2321 | @alexander.payne23

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	-
Career	-
Rebounds	
Season	-
Career	-
Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	-
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	-
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	-
Career	-
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	-
Career	-
Free Throws	
Season	-
Career	-
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	-
Career	-
Assists	
Season	-
Career	-
Steals	
Season	-
Career	-
Blocked Shots	
Season	-
Career	-
Minutes Played	
Season	-
Career	-

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	0	0
Double-Figure Scoring Games	0	0
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	0	0
Games With Double-Double	0	0
Games Led UK in Scoring	0	0
Games Led UK in Rebounding	0	0
Games Led UK in Assists	0	0
Games Led UK in Steals	0	0
Games Led UK in Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Assists	0	0
Games With 3+ Blocks	0	0
Games With 3+ Steals	0	0
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- Will spend his first season as a Wildcat rehabbing his knee after suffering an injury during his senior season in high school
- A highly-productive player out of Lexington Catholic. Scored 1,282 career points, which ranks 14th all-time in program history
- Also collected 934 career rebounds, which ranks fourth all-time in school history
- Three-year starter
- Averaged 19.3 points and 8.7 rebounds a game as a senior

Birthday: March 23
Parents: Kenny and Michelle
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Watch movies, shop, fish, hang out with friends and watch football

Did you know ...
He chose No. 21 because that's the number his father, associate head coach Kenny Payne, wore in college at Louisville

Game-By-Game Statistics

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	0-0	0-0.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0-0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	**0-0**	**0-0.0**	**0-0**	**.000**	**0-0**	**.000**	**0-0**	**.000**	**0-0-0-0.0**	**0-0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**

22

REID TRAVIS

Graduate Student | Forward | 6-8 | 238 lbs | Minneapolis | Stanford

@2ReidTravis2 | @reid_travis_22

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	22, 3x, last vs. UNCG (12/1/18)
Career	33, vs. WASHINGTON (2/22/18)
Rebounds	
Season	12, 4x, last vs. KANSAS (1/26/19)
Career	17, vs. Harvard (11/12/16)
Field Goals	
Season	8, vs. UNCG (12/1/18)
Career	11, 4x, last vs. WASHINGTON (2/22/18)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	16, vs. UNCG (12/1/18)
Career	19, 2x, last at Long Beach St. (12/3/17)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	1, 7x, last vs. Tennessee (3/16/19)
Career	3, vs. ARIZONA STATE (1/17/18)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	4, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	6, vs. ARIZONA STATE (1/17/18)
Free Throws	
Season	10, vs. VMI (11/18/18)
Career	19, at Kansas (12/3/16)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	13, vs. Duke (11/6/18)
Career	22, at Kansas (12/3/16)
Assists	
Season	3, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	4, 2x, last vs. CAL POLY (11/10/17)
Steals	
Season	3, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	4, vs. DEPAUL (12/15/15)
Blocked Shots	
Season	3, vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	3, 3x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Minutes Played	
Season	38, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	44, vs. GREEN BAY (11/13/15)

MISCELLANEOUS

	2018-19	CAREER*
Dunks	19	-
Double-Figure Scoring Games	15	84
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	4	35
Games With Double-Double	2	28
Games Led UK in Scoring	2	38
Games Led UK in Rebounding	8	57
Games Led UK in Assists	0	3
Games Led UK in Steals	5	20
Games Led UK in Blocks	6	17
Games With 3+ Assists	1	6
Games With 3+ Blocks	1	3
Games With 3+ Steals	1	6
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	1

**includes Stanford statistics*

- Senior CLASS Award finalist
- Returned to the UK rotation to start the SEC Tournament after missing the last five games of the regular season with a sprained right knee
  - Averaged 9.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks in the SEC Tournament
- Notched his second double-double of the season against No. 9/10 Kansas with 18 points and 12 rebounds
- In the eight games he's played against ranked opponents, averaging 14.1 points and 8.5 rebounds per game
- Reached double-figure scoring in 15 games this season
- Averaging 6.9 rebounds, second best on the team, and 11.1 points
- Scored 22 points in three games this season
- Best SEC game of the season at No. 14/12 Auburn with 17 points and a team-high-tying seven rebounds
- Named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's Karl Malone Award preseason watch list (best power forward)
- Graduate transfer who concluded his career at Stanford as a three-time captain and two-time All-Pac-12 First Team member
  - One of three Stanford players in program history to have at least 1,400 points and 700 rebounds in fewer than 100 games played
  - Ranked third in the Pac-12 in both scoring (19.5 ppg) and rebounding (8.7 rpg)
  - Scored in double figures in all but one of his 35 games played as a senior
- Only player in the Pac-12 and one of only five Power 5 conference players to finish the season ranked in the top five of his league in both scoring and rebounding in his junior season
- Out of high school he was a consensus top-50 player

Birthday: Nov. 25
Parents: Nathaniel and Jacqueline
Graduate Program: Sport Leadership

Off the court he likes to ...
Facetime with family, go to the movies, fish, watch "The Office" or "Seinfeld," and bowl

Did you know ...
He wrote poetry and participated in poetry contests while he was in middle school

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18	*	30	6-8	.750	1-1	1.000	9-13	.692	4	3	7	7.0	2	1	3	1	0	22	22.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18	*	14	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	4-6	.667	2	3	5	6.0	2	1	0	1	0	6	14.0
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18	*	21	4-12	.333	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	4	3	7	6.3	3	0	1	0	0	11	13.0
VMI	11/18/18		24	6-8	.750	0-1	.000	10-12	.833	3	3	6	6.3	2	0	3	0	0	22	15.3
WINTHROP	11/21/18		25	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	2	1	3	5.6	2	2	4	1	1	8	13.8
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18		24	4-4	1.000	0-0	.000	5-9	.556	4	5	9	6.2	4	1	2	2	0	13	13.7
MONMOUTH	11/28/18	*	27	4-6	.667	1-2	.500	4-5	.800	0	6	6	6.1	1	1	1	1	0	13	13.6
UNCG	12/01/18	*	37	8-16	.500	1-1	1.000	5-6	.833	4	8	12	6.9	1	2	0	0	1	22	14.6
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18	*	34	3-6	.500	0-0	.000	7-8	.875	1	5	6	6.8	5	2	3	1	2	13	14.4
UTAH	12/15/18	*	32	7-10	.700	0-1	.000	2-4	.500	1	2	3	6.4	0	1	0	0	0	16	14.6
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18	*	38	6-15	.400	1-4	.250	7-11	.636	3	4	7	6.5	2	3	1	1	0	20	15.1
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18	*	30	4-8	.500	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1	3	4	6.3	3	0	0	2	0	9	14.6
at Alabama	01/05/19	*	29	6-13	.462	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	1	5	6	6.2	3	1	5	0	0	12	14.4
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19	*	30	3-6	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	2	4	6.1	2	1	0	1	1	6	13.8
VANDERBILT	01/12/19	*	30	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	3	9	12	6.5	2	1	2	2	0	5	13.2
at Georgia	01/15/19	*	22	3-7	.429	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	5	5	6.4	1	1	1	0	0	6	12.8
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19	*	29	6-7	.857	0-0	.000	5-5	1.000	3	4	7	6.4	4	0	1	1	0	17	13.0
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19	*	30	1-6	.167	0-1	.000	3-4	.750	4	8	12	6.7	0	1	3	1	1	5	12.6
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19	*	28	7-11	.636	0-0	.000	4-6	.667	7	5	12	7.0	3	0	1	0	0	18	12.8
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19	*	21	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	3	3	6.8	2	0	1	1	0	1	12.3
at Florida	02/02/19	*	27	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	4	7	6.8	1	1	1	0	0	6	12.0
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19	*	22	2-7	.286	0-1	.000	7-8	.875	6	3	9	6.9	3	0	1	0	3	11	11.9
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19	*	33	4-9	.444	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	2	6	8	7.0	4	1	1	2	1	8	11.7
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19	*	37	3-7	.429	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	5	4	9	7.0	3	1	2	0	0	9	11.6
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19	*	33	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	7-10	.700	3	5	8	7.1	3	1	2	2	0	11	11.6
at Mizzou	02/19/19	*	13	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	1-1	1.000	0	2	2	6.9	3	1	2	0	1	3	11.3
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARKANSAS	02/26/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
at Ole Miss	03/05/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19		dnp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
vs Alabama	03/15/19		23	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	4	7	6.9	4	0	1	3	0	8	11.1
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19	*	28	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	4-6	.667	3	3	6	6.9	5	0	2	0	1	11	11.1
Totals		24	771	106-204	.520	7-25	.280	93-128	.727	74	118	192	6.9	70	24	44	23	12	312	11.1

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2014-15	28-12	646-23.1	67-137	.489	0-0	.000	39-85	.459	62-94-156-5.6	60-0	12	27	7	24	173	6.2
2015-16	8-8	262-32.8	39-70	.557	0-0	.000	24-50	.480	26-31-57-7.1	19-1	6	17	5	6	102	12.8
2016-17	27-27	813-30.1	176-304	.579	0-1	.000	118-181	.652	93-146-239-8.9	64-1	14	56	5	14	470	17.4
2017-18	35-35	1190-34.0	250-474	.527	18-61	.295	164-243	.675	104-202-306-8.7	91-3	47	72	4	26	682	19.5
2018-19	28-24	771-27.5	106-204	.520	7-25	.280	93-128	.727	74-118-192-6.9	70-2	24	44	23	12	312	11.1
TOTAL	**126-106**	**3682-29.2**	**638-1189**	**.537**	**25-87**	**.287**	**438-687**	**.638**	**359-591-950-7.5**	**304-7**	**103**	**216**	**44**	**82**	**1739**	**13.8**

23

EJ MONTGOMERY

Freshman | Forward | 6-10 | 225 lbs | Fort Pierce, Fla. | Wheeler

@E_Montomery | @_mont23

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	11, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	11, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Rebounds	
Season	13, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	13, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Field Goals	
Season	5, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	5, vs. SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	8, 2x, last vs. N. DAKOTA (11/14/18)
Career	8, 2x, last vs. N. DAKOTA (11/14/18)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	1, 2x, last vs. S. CAROLINA (2/5/19)
Career	1, 2x, last vs. S. CAROLINA (2/5/19)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	2, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
Career	2, vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
Free Throws	
Season	3, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Career	3, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	4, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Career	4, vs. TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
Assists	
Season	2, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	2, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Steals	
Season	2, 2x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	2, 2x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Blocked Shots	
Season	4, at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
Career	4, at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
Minutes Played	
Season	28, vs. FLORIDA (3/9/19)
Career	28, vs. FLORIDA (3/9/19)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	18	18
Double-Figure Scoring Games	2	2
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	1	1
Games With Double-Double	1	1
Games Led UK in Scoring	0	0
Games Led UK in Rebounding	2	2
Games Led UK in Assists	0	0
Games Led UK in Steals	4	4
Games Led UK in Blocks	13	13
Games With 3+ Assists	0	0
Games With 3+ Blocks	3	3
Games With 3+ Steals	0	0
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	0	0

- Third on the team with 36 blocks, including a career-high four at Ole Miss
- All-around contributor, averaging 3.9 points, 4.0 rebounds and 1.1 blocks in 15.1 minutes per game
- In the first game without Reid Travis (sprained right knee), started and played 23 minutes -- his most since Nov. 28 -- recording six points, seven rebounds, and tying his career high in blocks (three) and steals (two)
- Had his best game as a Wildcat vs. South Carolina on Feb. 5, notching his first career double-double with 11 points and 13 rebounds, both career highs
- A difference maker in the win at Florida with three rebounds, including two key ones on offense
- Solid game off the bench with six points, six rebounds and a block in 14 minutes at Georgia
- Strong showing vs. Southern Illinois with 10 points, seven boards and two swats
- Nearly matched that effort with eight points, seven boards and two blocks vs. North Dakota in a season-high 26 minutes
- Led Kentucky with 14 points on 7-of-10 shooting against Transylvania with nine rebounds and a blocked shot
- Averaged 25.6 points, 13.6 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game as a senior at Wheeler
- Scored 12 points and hauled in five rebounds in the McDonald's All American Game
- Considered a five-star recruit and ranked as high as No. 6 overall by 247 Sports

Birthday: Sept. 12
Parents: Efrem and Glenda
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Watch movies, hang out with friends, play video games, spend time with family and go to the beach

Did you know ...
Both of his parents and two older sisters played basketball in college and his favorite movies are "Love and Basketball" and "The Purge"

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18		22	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	3	6	6.0	4	1	3	0	0	8	8.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18		17	4-8	.500	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	4	3	7	6.5	1	0	1	2	0	10	9.0
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18		26	4-8	.500	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	3	4	7	6.7	3	0	1	2	0	8	8.7
VMI	11/18/18	*	16	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	3	5	6.3	3	0	2	3	0	3	7.3
WINTHROP	11/21/18		16	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	5.4	2	2	0	2	0	6	7.0
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18		24	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	3	3	6	5.5	1	0	1	2	0	5	6.7
MONMOUTH	11/28/18		26	3-6	.500	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1	3	4	5.3	4	2	1	1	2	7	6.7
UNCG	12/01/18		15	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	2	5	5.3	1	0	2	1	0	8	6.9
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18		8	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	4.7	2	0	1	0	0	0	6.1
UTAH	12/15/18		12	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	3	5	4.7	0	1	0	1	0	2	5.7
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18		2	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	4.4	1	0	1	0	0	2	5.4
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18		10	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0	2	2	4.2	3	0	0	0	0	2	5.1
at Alabama	01/05/19		8	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.8
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19		12	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.7	0	0	1	2	1	4	4.8
VANDERBILT	01/12/19		8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.7	0	0	0	1	0	0	4.5
at Georgia	01/15/19		14	3-6	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	4	6	3.8	3	0	1	1	0	6	4.6
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19		10	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	3.6	2	0	1	0	1	0	4.3
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19		13	2-5	.400	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	2	0	2	3.6	1	0	1	1	1	5	4.3
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19		7	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	2	0	2	3.5	3	0	0	1	0	0	4.1
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19		11	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	0	1	3.4	2	2	0	1	0	4	4.1
at Florida	02/02/19		10	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.3	1	0	0	1	0	0	3.9
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19		20	5-7	.714	1-1	1.000	0-1	.000	5	8	13	3.8	4	1	2	1	1	11	4.2
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19		16	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	4	3	7	3.9	3	0	1	0	0	2	4.1
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19		13	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	4	1	5	4.0	1	1	0	0	0	6	4.2
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19		9	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	3	4	4.0	2	0	0	0	0	6	4.3
at Mizzou	02/19/19		16	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	3.8	4	0	0	2	0	0	4.1
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19	*	23	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	5	7	4.0	2	0	1	3	2	6	4.2
ARKANSAS	02/26/19	*	12	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.9	4	0	2	0	0	2	4.1
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19		17	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	5	5	4.0	4	0	1	1	1	2	4.0
at Ole Miss	03/05/19	*	26	1-4	.250	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	5	6	4.0	1	0	0	4	0	2	4.0
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19	*	28	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	4	3	7	4.1	4	0	0	1	1	0	3.8
vs Alabama	03/15/19	*	10	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	4.1	3	2	0	1	0	2	3.8
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19		22	4-5	.800	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	0	1	1	4.0	2	0	1	1	1	8	3.9
Totals		6	499	56-117	.479	2-10	.200	15-25	.600	55	76	131	4.0	71	12	25	36	11	129	3.9

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2018-19	33-6	499-15.1	56-117	.479	2-10	.200	15-25	.600	55-76-131-4.0	71-0	12	25	36	11	129	3.9
TOTAL	**33-6**	**499-15.1**	**56-117**	**.479**	**2-10**	**.200**	**15-25**	**.600**	**55-76-131-4.0**	**71-0**	**12**	**25**	**36**	**11**	**129**	**3.9**

25

PJ WASHINGTON

Sophomore | Forward | 6-8 | 228 lbs | Dallas | Findlay Prep

@PJWashington | @pj_washington

2018-19 SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points	
Season	29, vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Career	29, vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Rebounds	
Season	18, vs. VMI (11/18/18)
Career	18, vs. VMI (11/18/18)
Field Goals	
Season	9, 6x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	9, 6x, last vs. AUBURN (2/23/19
Field Goals Attempted	
Season	17, vs. KANSAS (1/26/19)
Career	17, vs. KANSAS (1/26/19)
3-Point Field Goals	
Season	5, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	5, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
3-Point Field Goals Attempted	
Season	8, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Career	8, vs. AUBURN (2/23/19)
Free Throws	
Season	12, vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Career	12, vs. Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Free Throws Attempted	
Season	13, 2x, last at TENNESSEE (3/2/19)
Career	20, vs. Kansas State (3/22/18)
Assists	
Season	8, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Career	8, vs. North Carolina (12/22/18)
Steals	
Season	3, 2x, last at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Career	3, 5x, last at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
Blocked Shots	
Season	4, 4x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Career	4, 6x, last vs. Alabama (3/15/19)
Minutes Played	
Season	38, vs. FLORIDA (3/9/19)
Career	40, vs. Kansas State (3/22/18)

MISCELLANEOUS	2018-19	CAREER
Dunks	29	69
Double-Figure Scoring Games	23	46
Double-Figure Rebounding Games	8	11
Games With Double-Double	8	11
Games Led UK in Scoring	15	21
Games Led UK in Rebounding	15	23
Games Led UK in Assists	5	8
Games Led UK in Steals	8	18
Games Led UK in Blocks	10	21
Games With 3+ Assists	9	17
Games With 3+ Blocks	5	7
Games With 3+ Steals	2	5
Games With 3+ 3-Pointers	5	5

- All-SEC First Team (coaches and media)
- All-America Third Team selection by Sporting News and U.S. Basketball Writers Associatoin
- Wooden Award National Ballot
- One of five finalists for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame's Karl Malone Award (best power forward)
- Naismith Trophy semifinalist
- Two-time SEC Player of the Week
- Named USBWA Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week after win over No. 1 Tennessee
- Averaging a team-best 14.8 points and 7.5 rebounds per game
- Scored in double figures in 17 of the last 18 games and 23 games overall
- One of four players nationally standing 6-foot-8 or taller averaging at least 14.5 points per game, shooting at least 50 percent from the field, at least 40 from 3-point range and made at least 30 treys
- Posted 24 points Feb. 23 vs. Auburn, which featured a career-high five 3-pointers
- Scored 20 or more in eight of 10 games with double-doubles from Jan. 22 to Feb. 23
  - First UK player with three straight double-doubles since Julius Randle did it four times in March 2014
- First UK player with back-to-back 20-10 games since Julius Randle did it three times in November 2013
- Has a team-best eight double-doubles
- Second on the team in blocks with 40
- Has five or more rebounds in all but five games
- Led UK in rebounding in a team-high 15 games this season
- Scored a career-high 29 points in a double-double performance (12 rebounds) against Seton Hall. Also blocked four shots and dished out four assists
- Started 30 games last season and led UK with 211 boards
  - Scored in double figures in 11 of the last 12 games

Birthday: August 23
Parents: Sherry and Paul Sr.
Major: Undeclared/exploratory studies in agriculture

Off the court he likes to ...
Play Fortnite, spend time with friends, talk to loved ones, shop and watch TV

Did you know ...
He befriended UK football star Josh Allen during a service trip to Marshall County this summer

Game-By-Game Statistics

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds											
Opponent	Date	gs	min	fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 DUKE	11/06/18	*	17	3-7	.429	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	1	1	2	2.0	5	0	0	0	0	8	8.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/09/18	*	20	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	4	6	4.0	3	1	5	0	0	3	5.5
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18	*	17	9-13	.692	4-5	.800	3-5	.600	1	6	7	5.0	2	1	3	1	1	25	12.0
VMI	11/18/18	*	33	6-12	.500	0-0	.000	7-9	.778	7	11	18	8.3	0	3	1	0	0	19	13.8
WINTHROP	11/21/18	*	27	7-11	.636	0-1	.000	5-7	.714	1	10	11	8.8	0	4	3	1	3	19	14.8
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18	*	27	1-6	.167	0-1	.000	4-8	.500	2	5	7	8.5	2	0	1	1	2	6	13.3
MONMOUTH	11/28/18	*	19	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	2	6	8	8.4	5	1	1	0	0	8	12.6
UNCG	12/01/18	*	28	4-9	.444	1-1	1.000	0-1	.000	3	5	8	8.4	4	2	4	0	0	9	12.1
vs Seton Hall	12/08/18	*	35	8-15	.533	1-3	.333	12-13	.923	4	8	12	8.8	1	4	2	4	0	29	14.0
UTAH	12/15/18	*	31	4-8	.500	0-2	.000	1-2	.500	3	1	4	8.3	0	1	1	3	2	9	13.5
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18	*	30	5-9	.556	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	3	7	10	8.5	2	8	2	2	0	11	13.3
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18	*	33	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	6	8	8.4	3	3	1	4	1	5	12.6
at Alabama	01/05/19	*	31	4-10	.400	0-3	.000	7-8	.875	1	6	7	8.3	4	1	1	0	1	15	12.8
TEXAS A&M	01/08/19	*	28	4-8	.500	0-2	.000	1-1	1.000	1	4	5	8.1	2	2	1	0	1	9	12.5
VANDERBILT	01/12/19	*	32	1-4	.250	0-1	.000	1-4	.250	5	3	8	8.1	3	1	0	1	1	3	11.9
at Georgia	01/15/19	*	30	4-6	.667	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	3	3	6	7.9	4	0	1	0	0	10	11.8
at #14/12 Auburn	01/19/19	*	32	4-8	.500	1-2	.500	4-7	.571	3	4	7	7.9	4	2	3	1	0	13	11.8
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	01/22/19	*	27	9-15	.600	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	2	4	6	7.8	4	0	2	4	0	21	12.3
#9/10 KANSAS	01/26/19	*	36	7-17	.412	0-4	.000	6-8	.750	3	10	13	8.1	1	1	0	2	1	20	12.7
at Vanderbilt	01/29/19	*	29	9-15	.600	3-3	1.000	5-6	.833	4	8	12	8.3	1	2	2	0	3	26	13.4
at Florida	02/02/19	*	35	6-13	.462	0-1	.000	3-5	.600	4	8	12	8.4	3	2	2	1	0	15	13.5
SOUTH CAROLINA	02/05/19	*	28	6-16	.375	2-4	.500	6-7	.857	3	2	5	8.3	1	1	2	0	2	20	13.8
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	02/09/19	*	24	9-13	.692	3-3	1.000	2-4	.500	1	2	3	8.0	5	1	1	1	0	23	14.2
#19/21 LSU	02/12/19	*	27	7-13	.538	0-2	.000	6-8	.750	3	6	9	8.1	4	3	3	0	1	20	14.4
#1/1 TENNESSEE	02/16/19	*	31	9-12	.750	1-2	.500	4-7	.571	2	3	5	8.0	2	1	1	2	2	23	14.8
at Mizzou	02/19/19	*	37	7-13	.538	2-4	.500	2-4	.500	1	7	8	8.0	2	3	3	1	0	18	14.9
RV/RV AUBURN	02/23/19	*	33	9-13	.692	5-8	.625	1-2	.500	2	4	6	7.9	1	2	2	1	1	24	15.2
ARKANSAS	02/26/19	*	35	2-7	.286	0-2	.000	5-10	.500	0	6	6	7.8	2	1	1	2	2	9	15.0
at #7/7 Tennessee	03/02/19	*	30	2-6	.333	0-2	.000	9-13	.692	0	3	3	7.7	2	2	4	1	1	13	14.9
at Ole Miss	03/05/19	*	26	6-11	.545	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	7.4	3	4	1	2	0	13	14.9
NR/RV FLORIDA	03/09/19	*	38	6-14	.429	0-2	.000	3-3	1.000	3	6	9	7.5	2	1	4	0	0	15	14.9
vs Alabama	03/15/19	*	35	4-12	.333	1-3	.333	1-3	.333	2	10	12	7.6	0	4	2	4	2	10	14.7
vs #8/8 Tennessee	03/16/19	*	20	6-11	.545	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	2	3	5	7.5	4	0	1	1	0	16	14.8
Totals			33	961	174-338	.515	31-74	.419	108-160	.675	76	173	249	7.5	81	62	61	40	27	487	14.8

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min-Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def-Tot-Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2017-18	37-30	1012-27.4	135-260	.519	5-21	.238	126-208	.606	67-144-211-5.7	100-4	57	71	31	28	401	10.8
2018-19	33-33	961-29.1	174-338	.515	31-74	.419	108-160	.675	76-173-249-7.5	81-3	62	61	40	27	487	14.8
TOTAL	**70-63**	**1973-28.2**	**309-598**	**.517**	**36-95**	**.379**	**234-368**	**.636**	**143-317-460-6.6**	**181-7**	**119**	**132**	**71**	**55**	**888**	**12.7**

UK NCAA TOURNAMENT RECORDS

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

1942	**New Orleans**	Illinois (RS)	46-44	W
		Dartmouth (RF)	28-47	L
1945	**New York**	Ohio State (RS)	37-45	L
		Tufts (Cons.)	66-56	W
1948	**New York**	Columbia (RS)	76-53	W
		Holy Cross (RF)	60-52	W
		Baylor (NF)	58-42	W
1949	**New York**	Villanova (RS)	85-72	W
		Illinois (RF)	76-47	W
	Seattle	Oklahoma State (NF)	46-36	W
1951	**Raleigh**	Louisville (1st)	79-68	W
	New York	St. John's (RS)	59-43	W
		Illinois (RF)	76-74	W
	Minneapolis	Kansas State (NF)	68-58	W
1952	**Raleigh**	Penn State (RS)	82-54	W
		St. John's (RF)	57-64	L
1955	**Evanston**	Marquette (RS)	71-79	L
		Penn State (Cons.)	84-59	W
1956	**Iowa City**	Wayne State (RS)	84-64	W
		Iowa (RF)	77-89	L
1957	**Lexington**	Pittsburgh (RS)	98-92	W
		Michigan State (RF)	68-80	L
1958	**Lexington**	Miami, Ohio (RS)	94-70	W
		Notre Dame (RF)	89-56	W
	Louisville	Tempe (NS)	61-60	W
		Seattle (NF)	84-72	W
1959	**Evanston**	Louisville (RS)	61-76	L
		Marquette (Cons.)	98-69	W
1961	**Louisville**	Morehead State (RS)	71-64	W
		Ohio State (RF)	74-87	L
1962	**Iowa City**	Butler (RS)	81-60	W
		Ohio State (RF)	64-74	L
1964	**Minneapolis**	Ohio (RS)	69-85	L
		Loyola, Chi. (Cons.)	91-100	L
1966	**Iowa City**	Dayton (RS)	86-79	W
		Michigan (RF)	84-77	W
	College Park	Duke (NS)	83-79	W
		UTEP (NF)	65-72	L
1968	**Lexington**	Marquette (RS)	107-89	W
		Ohio State (RF)	81-82	L
1969	**Madison**	Marquette (RS)	74-81	L
		Miami, Ohio (Cons.)	72-71	W
1970	**Columbus**	Notre Dame (RS)	109-99	W
		Jacksonville (RF)	100-106	L
1971	**Athens**	Western Kentucky (RS)	83-107	L
		Marquette (Cons.)	74-91	L
1972	**Dayton**	Marquette (RS)	85-69	W
		Florida State (RF)	54-73	L
1973	**Nashville**	Austin Peay (RS) [OT]	106-100	W
		Indiana (RF)	65-72	L
1975	**Tuscaloosa**	Marquette (1st)	76-54	W
	Dayton	Central Michigan (RS)	90-73	W
		Indiana (RF)	92-90	W
	San Diego	Syracuse (NS)	95-79	W
		UCLA (NF)	85-92	L
1977	**Philadelphia**	Princeton (1st)	72-58	W
	College Park	VMI (RS)	93-78	W
		North Carolina (RF)	72-79	L
1978	**Knoxville**	Florida State (1st)	85-76	W
	Dayton	Miami, Ohio (RS)	91-69	W
		Michigan State (RF)	52-49	W
	St. Louis	Arkansas (NS)	64-59	W
		Duke (NF)	94-88	W
1980[1]	**Bowling Green**	Florida State[8] (2nd)	97-78	W
	Lexington	Duke[4] (RS)	54-55	L
1981[2]	**Tuscaloosa**	UAB[7] (2nd)	62-69	L
1982[6]	**Nashville**	Middle Tennessee[11] (1st)	44-50	L
1983[3]	**Tampa**	Ohio[11] (2nd)	57-40	W
	Knoxville	Indiana[2] (RS)	64-59	W
		Louisville[1] (RF) [OT]	68-80	L
1984[1]	**Birmingham**	BYU[8] (2nd)	93-68	W
	Lexington	Louisville[5] (RS)	72-67	W
		Illinois[2] (RF)	54-51	W
	Seattle	Georgetown[1] (NS)	40-53	L
1985[12]	**Salt Lake City**	Washington[5] (1st)	66-58	W
		UNLV[4] (2nd)	64-61	W
	Denver	St. John's[1] (RS)	70-86	L
1986[1]	**Charlotte**	Davidson[16] (1st)	75-55	W
		Western Ky.[8] (2nd)	71-64	W
	Atlanta	Alabama[5] (RS)	68-63	W
		LSU[11] (RF)	57-59	L
1987[8]	**Atlanta**	Ohio State[9] (1st)	77-91	L
***1988**[2]	**Cincinnati**	Southern[15] (1st)	99-84	W
		Maryland[7] (2nd)	90-81	W
	Birmingham	Villanova[6] (RS)	74-80	L
1992[2]	**Worcester**	Old Dominion[15] (1st)	88-69	W
		Iowa State[10] (2nd)	106-98	W
	Philadelphia	Massachusetts[3] (RS)	87-77	W
		Duke[1] (RF) [OT]	103-104	L
1993[1]	**Nashville**	Rider[16] (1st)	96-52	W
		Utah[8] (2nd)	83-62	W
	Charlotte	Wake Forest[5] (RS)	103-69	W
		Florida State[3] (RF)	106-81	W
	New Orleans	Michigan[1] (NS) [OT]	78-81	L
1994[3]	**St. Petersburg**	Tennessee State[14] (1st)	83-70	W
		Marquette[6] (2nd)	63-75	L
1995[1]	**Memphis**	Mt. St. Mary's[16] (1st)	113-67	W
		Tulane[9] (2nd)	82-60	W
	Birmingham	Arizona State[5] (RS)	97-73	W
		North Carolina[2] (RF)	61-74	L
1996[1]	**Dallas**	San Jose State[16] (1st)	110-72	W
		Virginia Tech[9] (2nd)	84-60	W
	Minneapolis	Utah[4] (RS)	101-70	W
		Wake Forest[2] (RF)	83-63	W
	E. Rutherford	Massachusetts[1] (NS)	81-74	W
		Syracuse[4] (NF)	76-67	W

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

1997[1]	**Salt Lake City**	Montana[16] (1st)	92-54	W
		Iowa[8] (2nd)	75-69	W
	San Jose	St. Joseph's[4] (RS)	83-68	W
		Utah[2] (RF)	72-59	W
	Indianapolis	Minnesota[1] (NS)	78-69	W
		Arizona[4] (NF) [OT]	79-84	L
1998[2]	**Atlanta**	S.C. State[15] (1st)	82-67	W
		Saint Louis[10] (2nd)	88-61	W
	St. Petersburg	UCLA[6] (RS)	94-68	W
		Duke[1] (RF)	86-84	W
	San Antonio	Stanford[3] (NS) [OT]	86-85	W
		Utah[3] (NF)	78-69	W
1999[3]	**New Orleans**	New Mexico State[14] (1st)	82-60	W
		Kansas[6] (2nd) [OT]	92-88	W
	St. Louis	Miami, Ohio[10] (RS)	58-43	W
		Michigan State[1] (RF)	66-73	L
2000[5]	**Cleveland**	St. Bonaventure[12] (1st) [2OT]	85-80	W
		Syracuse[4]	50-52	L
2001[2]	**Long Island**	Holy Cross[15] (1st)	72-68	W
		Iowa[7] (2nd)	92-79	W
	Philadelphia	Southern Cal[6] (RS)	76-80	L
2002[4]	**St. Louis**	Valparaiso[13] (1st)	83-68	W
		Tulsa[12] (2nd)	87-82	W
	Syracuse	Maryland[1] (RS)	68-78	L
2003[1]	**Nashville**	IUPUI[16] (1st)	95-64	W
		Utah[9] (2nd)	74-54	W
	Minneapolis	Wisconsin[5] (RS)	63-57	W
		Marquette[3] (RF)	69-83	L
2004[1]	**Columbus**	Florida A&M[16] (1st)	96-76	W
		UAB[9] (2nd)	75-76	L
2005[2]	**Indianapolis**	Eastern Kentucky[15] (1st)	72-64	W
		Cincinnati[7] (2nd)	69-60	W
	Austin	Utah[6] (RS)	62-52	W
		Michigan State[5] (RF) [2ot]	88-94	L
2006[8]	**Philadelphia**	UAB[9] (1st)	69-64	W
		UConn[1] (2nd)	83-87	L
2007[8]	**Chicago**	Villanova[9] (1st)	67-58	W
		Kansas[1] (2nd)	76-88	L
2008[11]	**Anaheim**	Marquette[6] (1st)	66-74	L
2010[1]	**New Orleans**	East Tennessee St.[16] (1st)	100-71	W
		Wake Forest[9] (2nd)	90-60	W
	SYRACUSE	CORNELL[12] (RS)	62-45	W
		West Virginia [2] (RF)	66-73	L
2011[4]	**Tampa**	Princeton [13] (2nd)	59-57	W
		Wake Forest[5] (3rd)	71-63	W
	Newark	Ohio State[1] (RS)	62-60	W
		North Carolina[2] (RF)	76-69	W
	Houston	Connecticut [3] (NS)	56-55	L
2012[1]	**Louisville**	Western Kentucky[16] (2nd)	81-66	W
		Iowa State[9] (3rd)	87-71	W
	Atlanta	Indiana[4] (RS)	102-90	W
		Baylor [3] (RF)	82-70	W
	New Orleans	Louisville [4] (NS)	69-61	W
		Kansas [2] (NF)	67-59	W
2014[8]	**St. Louis**	Kansas State [9] (2nd)	56-49	W
		Wichita State [1] (3rd)	78-76	W
	Indianapolis	Louisville [4] (RS)	74-69	W
		Michigan [2] (RF)	75-72	W
	Dallas	Wisconsin [2] (NS)	74-73	W
		UConn [7] (NF)	60-54	L
2015[1]	**Louisville**	Hampton [16] (2nd)	79-56	W
		Cincinnati [8] (3rd)	64-51	W
	Cleveland	West Virginia [5] (RS)	78-39	W
		Notre Dame [3] (RF)	68-66	W
	Indianapolis	Wisconsin [1] (NS)	71-64	L
2016[4]	**Des Moines**	Stony Brook [13] (1st)	85-57	W
		Indiana [5] (2nd)	73-67	L
2017[2]	**Indianapolis**	N. Kentucky [15] (1st)	79-70	W
		Wichita State [10] (2nd)	65-62	W
	Memphis	UCLA [3] (RS)	86-75	W
		North Carolina [1] (RF)	75-73	L
2018[5]	**Boise**	Davidson [12] (1st)	78-73	W
		Buffalo [13] (2nd)	95-75	W
	Atlanta	Kansas State [9] (RS)	61-58	L
2019[2]	**Jacksonville**	Abilene Christian [15] (1st)		

**1988 NCAA Tournament games were vacated by NCAA*

What's what?

UK Seed	Site	Opp. Seed	Round		
1998[2]	Atlanta	S.C. State[15]	(1st)	82-67	W

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

UK VS. THE 2019 NCAA TOURNAMENT FIELD

Opponent	*UK in Series:*	*NCAA Tournament*	*Last Meeting*
EAST REGION			
Duke	12-10	3-2	11-6-2018 (Duke 118, UK 84)
Michigan State	13-11	1-3	11-15-2016 (UK 69, MSU 48)
LSU	89-27	0-1	2-12-2019 (LSU 73, UK 71)
Virginia Tech	4-1	1-0	12-16-2017 (UK 93, VT 86)
Mississippi State	97-20	0-0	2-9-2019 (UK 71, MSU 67)
Maryland	8-5	0-1	11-9-2012 (UK 72, UMD 69)
Louisville	36-16	4-2	12-29-2018 (UK 71, UofL 58)
VCU	0-0	0-0	Never met
UCF	1-0	0-0	1-3-2006 (UK 59, UCF 57)
Minnesota	4-1	1-0	3-29-1997 (UK 78, UMN 69)
Belmont	1-0	0-0	12-21-2013 (UK 93, BU 80)
Temple	14-4	1-0	12-8-1962 (UK 56, TU 52)
Liberty	2-0	0-0	11-21-2007 (UK 80, LU 54)
Saint Louis	8-9	1-0	3-15-1998 (UK 88, SL 61)
Yale	1-0	0-0	12-27-1961 (UK 79, Yale 58)
Bradley	3-0	0-0	11-30-1979 (UK 79, BU 58)
North Dakota State	0-0	0-0	Never met
North Carolina Central	0-0	0-0	Never met
MIDWEST REGION			
North Carolina	16-24	1-3	12-22-2018 (UK 80, UNC 72)
Houston	3-1	0-0	12-18-2007 (UH 83, UK 69)
Kansas	23-9	2-1	1-26-2019 (UK 71, KU 63)
Auburn	94-19	0-0	2-23-2019 (UK 80, AU 53)
Iowa State	3-0	2-0	3-17-2012 (UK 87, ISU 71)
Wofford	0-0	0-0	Never met
Utah State	1-0	0-0	12-23-1957 (UK 92, USU 64)
Washington	2-0	1-0	11-23-2010 (UK 74, UW 67)
Seton Hall	1-2	0-0	12-8-2018 (SH 84, UK 83^{OT})
Ohio State	11-9	1-5	12-19-2015 (OSU 74, UK 67)
New Mexico State	1-0	1-0	3-12-1999 (UK 82, NMSU 60)
Northeastern	0-0	0-0	Never met
Georgia State	2-0	0-0	12-6-2005 (UK 73, GSU 46)
Abilene Christian	0-0	0-0	Never met
Iona	6-0	0-0	12-23-2005 (UK 73, Iona 67)
SOUTH REGION			
Virginia	6-3	0-0	11-26-2002 (UVA 75, UK 61)
Tennessee	155-73	0-0	03-16-2019 (UT 82, UK 78)
Purdue	6-2	0-0	12-3-1997 (UK 89, Purdue 75)
Kansas State	9-1	2-1	3-22-2018 (KSU 61, UK 58)
Wisconsin	4-2	2-1	4-4-2015 (UW 71, UK 64)
Villanova	6-0	2-0	3-16-2007 (UK 67, VU 58)
Cincinnati	28-10	2-0	3-21-2015 (UK 64, UC 51)
Ole Miss	107-13	0-0	3-5-2019 (UK 80, Ole Miss 76)
Oklahoma	3-0	0-0	11-22-2010 (UK 76, OU 64)
Iowa	5-3	2-1	11-21-2005 (Iowa 67, UK 63)
Saint Mary's	0-0	0-0	Never met
Oregon	1-0	0-0	12-16-1972 (UK 95, UO 68)
UC Irvine	0-0	0-0	Never met
Old Dominion	2-0	1-0	11-20-2011 (UK 62, ODU 52)
Colgate	0-0	0-0	Never met
Gardner-Webb	0-1	0-0	11-07-2007 (GWU 84, UK 68)
WEST REGION			
Gonzaga	1-0	0-0	11-27-2002 (UK 80, GU 72)
Michigan	5-2	2-1	3-30-2014 (UK 75, UM 72)
Texas Tech	4-0	0-0	12-17-1994 (UK 83, TTU 68)
Florida State	6-2	3-1	3-27-1993 (UK 106, FSU 81)
Marquette	7-7	4-6	3-20-2008 (MU 74, UK 66)
Buffalo	2-0	1-0	3-17-2018 (UK 95, UB 75)
Nevada	0-0	0-0	Never met
Syracuse	8-3	2-1	3-18-2000 (SU 52, UK 50)
Baylor	7-2	2-0	12-6-2013 (BU 67, UK 62)
Florida	102-40	0-0	3-9-2019 (UK 66, UF 57)
Arizona State	5-0	1-0	11-28-2016 (UK 115, ASU 69)
St. John's	11-5	1-2	12-1-2011 (UK 81, St. John's 59)
Murray State	0-0	0-0	Never met
Vermont	1-0	0-0	11-12-2017 (UK 73, UVM 69)
Northern Kentucky	2-0	1-0	3-17-2017 (UK 79, NKU 70)
Montana	1-0	1-0	3-13-1997 (UK 81, UM 69)
Prairie View	0-0	0-0	Never met
Fairleigh Dickinson	0-0	0-0	Never met

UK SEEDING HISTORY IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

UK NCAA TOURNAMENT SEED GRID

UK	Opponent Seed															
Seed	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**Total**
1(12)	2-3	4-2	3-1	5-2	6-0	—	—	6-0	5-1	—	0-1	1-0	—	—	—	10-0	42-10
2(7)	1-2	—	4-0	—	0-2	3-2	4-1	—	—	3-0	—	—	—	—	7-0	—	22-7
3(3)	0-2	1-0	—	—	—	1-1	—	—	—	1-0	1-0	—	—	2-0	—	—	6-3
4(3)	1-1	1-0	0-1	—	1-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	3-0	—	—	—	7-2
5(1)	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	2-0	1-0	—	—	—	3-2
6(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
7(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
8(4)	1-2	2-0	—	1-0	—	—	0-1	—	3-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7-4
9(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
10(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
11(1)	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
12(1)	0-1	—	—	1-0	1-0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2-1
Total	**5-11**	**8-2**	**7-2**	**7-3**	**8-3**	**4-4**	**4-2**	**6-0**	**8-3**	**4-0**	**1-2**	**4-0**	**4-0**	**2-0**	**7-0**	**10-0**	

*The NCAA began seeding at the 1979 NCAA Tournament

March Madness Numbers

Entering the 2019 NCAA Tournament, the nation's winningest team, Kentucky, holds many distinctions in NCAA Tournament play, including:

Appearances

1.	**KENTUCKY**	**58**
2.	North Carolina	50
3.	Kansas	48
4.	UCLA	47
5.	Louisville	43

Tournament Games

1.	**KENTUCKY**	**177**
2.	North Carolina	170
3.	Kansas	153
4.	Duke	148
5.	UCLA	141

Tournament Wins

1.	**KENTUCKY**	**126**
2.	North Carolina	124
3.	Duke	111
4.	Kansas	107
5.	UCLA	101

NCAA Championships

1.	UCLA	11
2.	**KENTUCKY**	**8**
3.	North Carolina	6
4.	Duke	5
	Indiana	5

NCAA Final Fours

1.	North Carolina	20
2.	**KENTUCKY**	**17**
	UCLA	17
4.	Duke	16
5.	Kansas	15

NCAA Final Four Wins

1.	UCLA	25
2.	**KENTUCKY**	**20**
3.	North Carolina	18
4.	Duke	17
5.	Kansas	12
	Indiana	12

UK NCAA TEAM SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

Most Points
113, Mount Saint Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
110, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
109, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
106, Florida State (1993, Elite 8)
106, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
106, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16) [OT]
by Opponent
107 by Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)
106 by Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
104 by Duke (1992, Elite 8) [OT]

Fewest Points
28, Dartmouth (1942, Elite 8)
37, Ohio State (1945, Sweet 16)
40, Georgetown (1984, Final Four)
44, Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)
by Opponent
36, Oklahoma State (1949, Championship)
39, West Virginia (2015, Sweet 16)
40, Miami, Ohio (1999, Sweet 16)
42, Baylor (1948, Championship)

Field Goals
50, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
43, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
43, Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
43, Marquette (1959, Regional Cons.)
42, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
by Opponent
46 by Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
42 by Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)

Field Goals Attempted
99, Miami, Ohio (1958, Sweet 16)
97, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
89, Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
86, UCLA (1975, Championship)
84, Loyola (1964, Regional Cons.)
by Opponent
99 by Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
87 by Michigan State (1957, Elite 8)
85 by Michigan (1966, Elite 8)

Highest Field-Goal Percentage
.667, Southern (1988, 1st Round) [38-of-57]
.621, Miami, Ohio (1978, Sweet 16) [41-of-66]
.619, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [39-of-63]
.615, Utah (2005, Sweet 16) [24-of-39]
.615, IUPUI (2003, 1st Round) [40-of-65]
by Opponent
.660 by Ohio State (1987, 1st Round) [33-of-50]
.654 by Duke (1992, Elite 8) [34-of-52]
.605 by North Carolina (1977, Elite 8) [23-of-38]

Lowest Field-Goal Percentage
.245, Georgetown (1984, Final Four) [13-of-53]
.280, North Carolina (1995, Elite 8) [21-of-75]
.302, Temple (1958, Final Four) [19-of-63]
.311, UAB (2006, 1st Round) [19-of-61]
.316, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round) [24-of-76]
by Opponent
.241 by West Virginia (2015, Sweet 16) [13-of54]
.263 by Stony Brook (2016, First Round) [20-76]
.282 by Notre Dame (1958, Elite 8) [22-of-78]
.288 by Hampton (2015, 2nd Round) [17of-59]

3-Point Field Goals
16, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16)
15, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
13, Iowa (2001, 2nd Round)
13, Mount Saint Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
12, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
12, Syracuse (1996, Championship)
by Opponent
13 by Arizona State (1995, Sweet 16)
12 by Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)

3-Point Field Goals Attempted
38, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
36, North Carolina (1995, Elite 8)
33, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
32, West Virginia (2010, Elite 8)
30, Arizona (1997, Championship)
by Opponent
33 by Davidson (2018, 1st Round)
32 by Northern Kentucky (2017, 1st Round)
32 by St. Bonaventure (2000, 1st Round)

3-Point Field-Goal Percentage (min. 10 attempts)
.667, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [16-of-24]
.636, Wake Forest (1996, Elite 8) [7-of-11]
.583, Cincinnati (2005, 2nd Round) [7-of-12]
.571, New Mexico State (1999, 1st Round) [8-of-14]
.545, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8) [12-of-22]
.545, Duke (1992, Elite 8) [12-of-22]
by Opponent
.625 by Kansas (2007, 2nd Round) [10-of-16]
.571 by USC (2001, Sweet 16) [8-of-14]
.556 by Holy Cross (2001, Sweet 16) [10-of-18]

Free Throws
35, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16)
33, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
30, Washington (1985, 1st Round)
30, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
30, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
38 by Loyola (1964, Regional Cons.)
34 by Arizona (1997, Championship)
34 by Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)

Free Throws Attempted
48, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
41, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
40, Washington (1985, 1st Round)
39, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
38, Syracuse (1975, Final Four)
by Opponent
44 by Loyola (1964, Regional Cons.)
41 by Arizona (1997, Championship)
40 by UAB (1981, 2nd Round)

Free-Throw Percentage (min. 10 attempts)
1.000, Utah (2003, Sweet 16) [18-of-18]
.946, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16) [35-of-37]
.944, Connecticut (2006, 2nd Round) [17-of-18]
.900, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [18-of-20]
.900, Wisconsin (2015, Final Four) [9-of-10]
by Opponent
1.000 by Villanova (1988, Sweet 16) [17-of-17]
.950 by Wisconsin (2014, Final Four) [19-of-20]
.917 by Utah (1997, Elite 8) [11-of-12]
.917 by North Carolina (1977, Elite 8) [33-of-36]

Rebound Margin
+26, Florida State (1993, Sweet 16)
+23, Florida State (1980, 2nd Round)
+20, Hampton (2105, 2nd Round)
+20, Davidson (1986, 1st Round)
+19, Miami, Ohio (1999, Sweet 16)
+19, Notre Dame (1958, Elite 8)
by Opponent
+25 by Marquette (1971, Regional Cons.)
+24 by Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
+15 by Utah (1998, Championship)

Assists
35, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
33, Mount St. Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
27, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
27, Arizona State (1995, Sweet 16)
26, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
by Opponent
23 by Duke (1992, Elite 8)
23 by UCLA (1975, Championship)
21 by Marquette (2003, Elite 8)

Most Turnovers
25, Southern (1988, 1st Round)
23, Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
21, Syracuse (2000, 2nd Round)
20, Florida State (1993, Elite 8)
20, Louisville (1984, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
30 by Old Dominion (1992, 1st Round)
28 by Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
26 by Minnesota (1997, Final Four)
26 by San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)

Fewest Turnovers
4, Wisconsin (2014, Final Four)
6, UCLA (2017, Sweet 16)
6, Wisconsin (2015, Final Four)
6, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16)
6, Stanford (1998, Final Four)
6, Utah (1996, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
4 by Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
5 by St. John's (1995, Sweet 16)
6 by Duke (1998, Elite 8)

Blocks
15, Stony Brook (2016, 1st Round)
14, UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
11, Kansas (2012, National Championship)
11, Ohio State (2011, Sweet 16)
11, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
11, South Carolina State (1998, 1st Round)
11, Montana (1997, 1st Round)
by Opponent
9 by North Carolina (2017, Elite Eight)
9 by Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
8 by Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
8 by Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)

Steals
17, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
17, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
16, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
16, Old Dominion (1992, 1st Round)
14, Minnesota (1997, Final Four)
14, Montana (1997, 1st Round)
by Opponent
13 by Florida A&M (2004, 1st Round)
11 by Kansas State (2018, Sweet 16)
11 by East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
11 by USC (2001, Sweet 16)
11 by Louisville (1983, Elite 8)

Winning Margin
+46, Mount St. Mary's, (1995 1st Round) [113-67]
+44, Rider, (1993, 1st Round) [96-52]
+39, West Virginia, (2015, Sweet 16) [78-39]
+38, Montana, (1997, 1st Round) [92-54]
+38, San Jose State, (1996, 1st Round) [110-72]

UK NCAA INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

Points
44, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
41, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002, 2nd Round)
41, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978, Championship)
39, De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA (2017, Sweet 16)
36, Dan Issel vs. Miami, Ohio (1969, Regional Cons.)
36, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
Opponent
52 Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
36 Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16)
35 Jim McDaniels, Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)
34 Carl Cain, Iowa (1956, Elite 8)
33 Kent Benson, Indiana (1975, Elite 8)
33 Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1962, Elite 8)
33 Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)

Field Goals
18, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978, Championship) [27 att.]
17, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16) [28 att.]
15, Jim Andrews vs. Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16) [19 att.]
14, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002, 2nd Round) [21 att.]
14, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968, Sweet 16) [18 att.]
14, Louie Dampier vs. Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [23 att.]
14, Bob Burrow vs. Wayne State (1956, Sweet 16)
Opponent
22 Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, 1st Round) [35 att.]
15 Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [26 att.]

Field Goals Attempted
30, Kevin Grevey vs. UCLA (1975, Championship)
29, Bill Spivey vs. Kansas State (1951, Championship)
28, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
27, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978, Championship)
27, Pat Riley vs. Michigan (1966, Elite 8)
27, Cotton Nash vs. Loyola (1964, Regional Cons.)
Opponent
35 Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, 1st Round)
32 Elgin Baylor, Seattle (1958, Championship)
31 James Williams, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
29 Don Hennon, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
26 Ron Carter, VMI (1977, Sweet 16)
26 Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16)
26 Bob Brown, Louisville (1951, 1st Round)

Field-Goal Percentage (min. 8 attempts)
1.000, Kenny Walker vs. Western Kentucky (1986, 2nd Round) [11-11]
.909, Travis Ford vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [10-11]
.900, DeMarcus Cousins vs. Wake Forest (2010, 2nd Round) [9-10]
.900, Patrick Patterson vs. East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round) [9-10]
.875, Three times last by Anthony Davis [7-8] vs. Louisville (2012, Final Four)
Opponent
1.000 Christian Laettner, Duke (1992, Elite 8) [10-10]
.900 Ben Caton, Utah (1996, Sweet 16) [9-10]
.875 Ric Cobb, Marqutte (1969, Sweet 16) [7-8]
.818 Randy Ayers, Miami, Ohio (1978, Sweet 16) [9-11]

3-Point Field Goals
8, Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee St. (2010, 1st Round)
7, Tony Delk vs. Syracuse (1996, Championship)
6, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002, 2nd Round)
6, Tayshaun Prince vs. Iowa (2001, 2nd Round)
5, 15 times, last Doron Lamb vs. Iowa State (2012, 2nd Round)
Opponent
6 Seven times, last by John Axel Gudmundsson, Davidson, (2018, 1st Round)

3-Point Field Goals Attempted
14, Tony Delk vs. North Carolina (1995, Elite 8)
12, Scott Padgett vs. Arizona (1997, Championship)
12, Tony Delk vs. Syracuse (1996, Championship)
12, Tony Delk vs. Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
11, Brandon Knight vs. UConn (2011, Final Four)
11, Brandon Knight vs. North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
Opponent
18 Jeff Boschee, Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
14 Terrence Woods, Florida A&M (2004, 1st Round)
11 Three times, last by John Axel Gudmundsson, Davidson (2018, 1st Round)

3-Point Field-Goal Percentage (min. 5 attempts)
1.000, Jamal Mashburn vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [5-5]
.889, Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round) [8-9]
.833, Cameron Mills vs. St. Joseph's (1997, Sweet 16) [5-6]
.833, Travis Ford vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [5-6]
.800, John Pelphrey vs. Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round) [4-5]
Opponent
.857 Brandon Rush, Kansas (2007, 2nd Round) [6-7]
.833 Shannon Brown, Michigan State (2005, Elite Eight) [5-6]
.800 Isaac Hamilton, UCLA (2017, Sweet 16) [4-5]
.714 Kirk Penney, Wisconsin (2003, Sweet 16) [5-7]

Free Throws
17, Roger Newman vs. Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
14, Randolph Morris vs. Kansas (2007, 2nd Round)
13, Five times, last by De'Aaron Fox vs. UCLA (2017, Sweet 16)
Opponent
16 John Riser, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
15 Ron Bayless, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
14 Miles Simon, Arizona (1997, Championship)
14 Dean Meminger, Marquette (1971, Regional Cons.)
14 Jim Coleman, Loyola (1964, Elite 8)

Free Throws Attempted
22, Roger Newman vs. Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
20, PJ Washington vs. Kansas St. (2018, Sweet 16)
19, Rodrick Rhodes vs. Tennessee St. (1994, 1st Round)
17, Scott Padgett vs. Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
Opponent
18 Robert Kendrick, Wayne State (1956, Sweet 16)
17 Miles Simon, Arizona (1997, Championship)
17 Dean Meminger, Marquette (1971, Regional Cons.)
17 Jim Coleman, Loyola (1964, Elite 8)
17 John Riser, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)

Free-Throw Percentage (min. 10 attempts)
1.000, 11 times, last by Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Indiana (2012, Sweet 16) [10-10]
Opponent
1.000, 13 times last by Sam Dekker, Wisconsin (2014, Final Four) [8-8]

Rebounds
24, Jerry Bird vs. Iowa (1956, Elite Eight)
21, Bill Spivey vs. Kansas State (1951, Championship)
18, Bam Adebayo vs. NKU (2017, 1st Round)
16, Six times, last Anthony Davis vs. Kansas (2012, Championship)
Opponent
30 Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
23 Kent Benson, Indiana (1975, Elite 8)
20 Artis Gilmore, Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
19 Elgin Baylor, Seattle (1958, Championship)

Assists
14, Dicky Beal vs. BYU (1984, 2nd Round)
11, John Wall vs. E. Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
9, Seven times, last by Ramel Bradley vs. Kansas (2007, 2nd Round)
Opponent
14 Andre McCarter, UCLA (1975, Championship)
12 by Edgar Padilla, Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
11 by Dwayne Wade, Marquette (2003, Elite 8)
11 by Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State (1999, Elite 8)
11 by Bruce Douglass, Illinois (1984, Elite 8)

Blocks
7, Anthony Davis vs. WKU (2012, 2nd Round)
6, Skal Labissiere vs. Stony Brook (2016, 1st Round)
6, Anthony Davis vs. Kansas (2012, Championship)
6, Anthony Davis vs. Baylor (2012, Elite 8)
6, Jamaal Magloire vs. UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
6, Nazr Mohammed vs. UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
Opponent
6, Marcus Camby, Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
5, Buck Hailey, Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)
5, Bo Ellis, Marquette (1975, 1st Round)
4, Eight times, last by Kennedy Meeks, North Carolina (2017, Elite 8)

Steals
6, Anthony Epps vs. San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
6, Antoine Walker vs. San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
6, Dicky Beal vs. Louisville (1984, Sweet 16)
5, Nine times, last Shai Gilgeous-Alexander vs. Davidson (2018, 1st Round)
Opponent
5, Terrence Woods, Florida A&M (2004, 1st Round)
5, Tim Horton, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
4, 16 times, last by Reginald Johnson, Hampton (2015, 1st Round)

2018-19 BOX SCORES

BOX SCORES

GAME ONE
#4/3 DUKE 118, #2/2 KENTUCKY 84

Official Basketball Box Score – Game Totals – Final Statistics
Duke vs Kentucky
11/6/18 9:30 p.m. at Bankers Life Fieldhouse (Indianapolis)

Duke 118 • 1-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Zion Williamson	f	11-13	1-1	5-7	3	4	7	3	28	2	1	1	1	23
02	Cam Reddish	f	6-14	3-8	7-7	0	2	2	4	22	3	0	0	4	24
05	R.J. Barrett	f	13-26	3-7	4-8	0	4	4	2	33	6	2	0	0	32
20	Marques Bolden	c	3-4	0-0	1-3	3	1	4	4	7	1	0	1	0	25
03	Tre Jones	g	2-7	1-1	1-2	0	4	4	1	6	7	0	0	1	31
12	Javin DeLaurier		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	4	0	0	1	1	2	11
14	Jordan Goldwire		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
15	Alex O'Connell		3-6	3-4	0-0	1	2	3	1	9	0	0	0	0	11
30	Antonio Vrankovic		1-1	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	5
41	Jack White		4-8	1-5	0-0	6	5	11	4	9	3	0	0	2	30
50	Justin Robinson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		43-79	12-26	20-29	13	25	38	26	118	22	4	3	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 22-40 55.0% 2nd half: 21-39 53.8% Game: 43-79 54.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd half: 6-14 42.9% Game: 12-26 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 9-13 69.2% 2nd half: 11-16 68.8% Game: 20-29 69.0%
Deadball Rebounds 5,1

Kentucky 84 • 0-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	6-8	1-1	9-13	4	3	7	2	22	1	3	1	0	30
25	Washington, PJ	f	3-7	1-2	1-2	1	1	2	5	8	0	0	0	0	17
02	Ashton Hagans	g	1-3	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	4	2	4	3	0	0	20
03	Keldon Johnson	g	8-16	1-3	6-10	1	3	4	3	23	2	0	1	1	30
14	Herro, Tyler	g	4-11	1-6	5-5	0	9	9	1	14	5	1	2	0	33
00	Quade Green		0-4	0-2	1-2	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	16
04	Nick Richards		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	3	0	0	3	1	0	13
05	Immanuel Quickley		0-3	0-2	6-6	0	1	1	2	6	1	1	0	0	19
23	Montgomery, EJ		4-6	0-0	0-0	3	3	6	4	8	1	3	0	0	22
	Team					2	2	4							
	Totals		26-59	4-17	28-38	11	26	37	25	84	17	15	5	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-32 40.6% 2nd half: 13-27 48.1% Game: 26-59 44.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-10 10.0% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 4-17 23.5%
FT % 1st Half: 15-21 71.4% 2nd half: 13-17 76.5% Game: 28-38 73.7%
Deadball Rebounds 6,1

Officials: Ron Groover, Doug Shows, Jeff Clark
Technical fouls: Duke-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 18907

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Duke	59	59	**118**
Kentucky	42	42	**84**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points DU	60	26	20	26	22
UK	38	8	8	12	15

Last FG - DU 2nd-00:10, UK 2nd-02:30.
Largest lead - DU by 37 2nd-11:45, UK None.
DU led for 39:25. UK led for 00:00. Game was tied for 00:35.
Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME TWO
#2/2 KENTUCKY 71, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 59

Official Basketball Box Score – Game Totals – Final Statistics
Southern Illinois vs Kentucky
11/9/18 7:00 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

Southern Illinois 59 • 0-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
33	Pippen, Kavion	c	7-15	0-0	2-3	3	4	7	4	16	3	1	0	2	32
03	Bartley, Marcus	g	2-4	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	4	5	4	2	0	0	36
10	Cook, Aaron	g	7-12	2-3	2-4	0	0	0	2	18	2	4	0	2	37
13	Lloyd, Sean		2-6	0-2	2-3	0	1	1	3	6	1	3	0	1	25
20	Fletcher, Aarmon	g	2-4	2-3	2-2	1	2	3	5	8	0	1	1	1	15
04	McGill, Eric		2-6	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	3	4	2	0	0	1	26
05	Beane, Darius		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
24	Stradnieks, Rudy		0-2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
25	Gooch, Brendon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
40	Bol, Thik		1-4	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	2	2	1	0	1	0	17
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		23-56	5-16	8-12	7	12	19	24	59	13	13	2	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-29 41.4% 2nd half: 11-27 40.7% Game: 23-56 41.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 1-7 14.3% Game: 5-16 31.3%
FT % 1st Half: 0-1 0.0% 2nd half: 8-11 72.7% Game: 8-12 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds 0,1

Kentucky 71 • 1-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	1-2	0-0	4-6	2	3	5	2	6	1	0	1	0	14
25	Washington, PJ	f	1-2	0-0	1-2	2	4	6	3	3	1	5	0	0	20
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	5-10	0-3	5-7	0	4	4	1	15	2	3	0	1	32
05	Quickley, Immanuel	g	6-10	2-4	1-1	0	4	4	2	15	0	2	0	2	31
14	Herro, Tyler	g	0-6	0-2	0-0	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	20
00	Green, Quade		4-8	2-5	4-5	0	0	0	0	14	3	2	0	1	26
02	Hagans, Ashton		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	0	0	13
04	Richards, Nick		3-8	0-0	2-3	9	10	19	2	8	1	3	3	0	27
23	Montgomery, EJ		4-8	0-0	2-3	4	3	7	1	10	0	1	2	0	17
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		24-54	4-14	19-27	18	30	48	15	71	11	19	6	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-24 41.7% 2nd half: 14-30 46.7% Game: 24-54 44.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-5 20.0% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 4-14 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 10-14 71.4% 2nd half: 9-13 69.2% Game: 19-27 70.4%
Deadball Rebounds 7

Officials: Don Daily, Tony Greene, KB Burdett, Jr.
Technical fouls: Southern Illinois-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20277

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Southern Illinois	28	31	**59**
Kentucky	31	40	**71**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points SIU	28	19	8	8	6
UK	30	11	17	14	32

Last FG - SIU 2nd-02:38, UK 2nd-00:34.
Largest lead - SIU by 8 1st-15:11, UK by 12 2nd-00:34.
SIU led for 19:31. UK led for 17:40. Game was tied for 02:49.
Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME THREE
#10/2 KENTUCKY 96, NORTH DAKOTA 58

Official Basketball Box Score – Game Totals – Final Statistics
North Dakota vs Kentucky
11/14/18 9:00pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

North Dakota 58 • 2-1, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Walter, Kienan	f	0-5	0-3	2-2	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	16
22	Aviants, Conner	f	5-9	0-0	4-6	1	1	2	3	14	2	2	0	0	23
03	Brown, Billy	g	1-3	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	0	2	0	1	26
04	Atelbauers, Davids	g	3-8	2-4	0-0	0	0	0	2	8	1	1	1	0	24
15	Seales, Cortez	g	2-5	0-0	2-4	0	0	0	1	7	3	5	1	0	29
05	Saddler, Zac		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Moody, Aanen		1-4	1-4	2-2	0	0	0	2	5	1	2	0	1	16
11	Panoam, Bentiu		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	8
12	Rebraca, Filip		5-8	2-3	1-3	0	6	6	3	13	0	2	1	3	22
13	Coudreau, Marko		1-3	0-2	1-1	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	10
20	Bijiek, Jal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	11
21	Igbanugo, Ethan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
22	Brooks, Carter		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
24	Hazekamp, Elijah		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	6
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		19-48	7-19	13-18	5	10	15	19	58	8	20	5	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-27 33.3% 2nd half: 10-21 47.6% Game: 19-48 39.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-13 38.5% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 7-19 36.8%
FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 11-16 68.8% Game: 13-18 72.2%
Deadball Rebounds 3,3

Kentucky 96 • 2-1, 0-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	4-12	1-7	2-2	4	3	7	3	11	0	1	0	1	21
25	Washington, PJ	f	9-13	4-5	3-5	1	6	7	2	25	1	3	1	1	17
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	3-4	0-0	6-8	3	7	10	2	12	1	0	0	0	34
05	Quickley, Immanuel	g	2-5	0-2	8-10	1	4	5	2	12	4	0	0	2	31
14	Herro, Tyler	g	7-12	1-2	3-3	0	1	1	0	18	3	2	0	5	25
00	Green, Quade		2-3	0-0	2-2	1	1	2	0	6	5	2	0	3	16
02	Hagans, Ashton		1-3	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	0	1	16
04	Richards, Nick		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	5	2	0	2	2	0	16
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
23	Montgomery, EJ		4-8	0-1	0-0	3	4	7	3	8	0	1	2	0	26
	Team					4	1	5							
	Totals		33-62	6-13	24-30	19	26	45	15	96	15	13	5	12	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-27 51.9% 2nd half: 19-35 54.3% Game: 33-62 53.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 6-13 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 15-19 78.9% 2nd half: 9-11 81.8% Game: 24-30 80.0%
Deadball Rebounds 6

Officials: Doug Sirmons, Vladimir Voyard-Tadal, A.J. Desai
Technical fouls: North Dakota-None. Kentucky-Richards, Nick.
Attendance: 18555

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
North Dakota	25	33	**58**
Kentucky	46	50	**96**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UND	18	6	0	2	24
UK	46	31	16	23	18

Last FG - UND 2nd-02:39, UK 2nd-01:37.
Largest lead - UND by 4 1st-18:42, UK by 38 2nd-01:37.
UND led for 01:32. UK led for 35:45. Game was tied for 01:54.
Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME FOUR
#10/2 KENTUCKY 92, VMI 82

Official Basketball Box Score – Game Totals – Final Statistics
VMI vs Kentucky
11/18/18 6:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

VMI 82 • 3-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
15	Lewis, Myles	f	1-4	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	4	2	1	0	0	0	14
25	Creammer, Tyler	f	4-7	3-4	2-2	1	4	5	4	13	1	1	0	0	23
02	Gilkeson, Garrett	g	5-8	3-5	0-0	2	4	6	4	13	2	0	0	1	33
03	Parham, Bubba	g	11-20	10-16	3-3	1	2	3	3	35	4	3	0	0	38
05	Parham, Greg	g	4-12	2-8	0-0	0	2	2	1	10	3	2	0	0	34
01	Fahl, Tragen		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
12	Bond, Ta'Vonne		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	7
21	Arnold, Connor		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
31	Patel, Sariu		3-9	0-4	0-0	0	2	2	4	6	3	2	0	0	28
34	Stephens, Jake		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	5	3	0	1	0	1	17
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		29-62	19-38	5-5	6	16	22	26	82	14	13	1	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-29 41.4% 2nd half: 17-33 51.5% Game: 29-62 46.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-16 43.8% 2nd half: 12-22 54.5% Game: 19-38 50.0%
FT % 1st Half: 3-3 100.0 2nd half: 2-2 100.0 Game: 5-5 100.0
Deadball Rebounds 1

Kentucky 92 • 3-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Montgomery, EJ	f	1-5	0-0	1-2	2	3	5	3	3	0	2	3	0	16
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-12	0-0	7-9	7	11	18	0	19	3	1	0	0	33
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	4-8	1-2	0-0	2	1	3	2	9	2	1	0	1	25
05	Quickley, Immanuel	g	0-4	0-3	6-6	0	1	1	0	6	2	1	0	1	27
14	Herro, Tyler	g	2-6	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	5	2	2	1	0	1	19
00	Green, Quade		5-10	3-5	4-4	1	2	3	1	17	2	1	0	2	27
02	Hagans, Ashton		2-3	0-1	1-2	0	1	1	5	4	0	2	0	2	21
04	Richards, Nick		3-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	8
22	Travis, Reid		6-8	0-1	10-12	3	3	6	2	22	0	3	0	0	24
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		29-59	5-14	29-35	18	25	43	12	92	15	11	6	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-36 41.7% 2nd half: 14-23 60.9% Game: 29-59 49.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 5-14 35.7%
FT % 1st Half: 15-18 83.3% 2nd half: 14-17 82.4% Game: 29-35 82.9%
Deadball Rebounds 2,1

Officials: Anthony Jordan, Owen Shortt, Josue Nieves
Technical fouls: VMI-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20207

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
VMI	34	48	**82**
Kentucky	48	44	**92**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points VMI	14	18	3	2	9
UK	42	25	23	8	50

Last FG - VMI 2nd-00:42, UK 2nd-01:30.
Largest lead - VMI by 2 1st-14:49, UK by 19 2nd-12:45.
VMI led for 02:20. UK led for 31:53. Game was tied for 05:47.
Score tied - 6 times.
Lead changed - 8 times.

GAME FIVE
#10/10 KENTUCKY 87, WINTHROP 74

Official Basketball Box Score – Game Totals – Final Statistics
Winthrop vs Kentucky
11/21/18 1:00 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Winthrop 74 • 2-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
25	Ferguson, Josh	f	4-9	3-5	0-0	1	7	8	3	11	2	4	0	1	36
00	Smith, Nych	g	2-10	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	4	4	2	0	0	26
03	Anunba, Micheal		1-4	1-1	2-3	1	1	2	4	5	1	1	1	0	18
13	Broman, Bjorn	g	2-9	2-7	0-0	0	2	2	3	6	0	1	0	0	30
21	Zunic, Kyle	g	4-4	2-2	0-2	0	0	0	1	10	2	1	0	0	18
11	Falden, Charles		3-5	2-2	3-3	0	3	3	0	11	1	1	0	2	21
14	Pickett, Adam		5-8	2-2	0-0	0	4	4	4	10	5	2	0	1	24
15	Ukaegbu, Jermaine		2-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	7
22	Awad, Austin		4-7	3-6	0-0	0	1	1	3	11	0	0	0	0	17
30	Scerbinskis, Raivis		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	3
	Team					0	0	0			1				
	Totals		28-59	13-28	5-8	2	20	22	21	74	16	19	0	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-33 42.4% 2nd half: 14-26 53.8% Game: 28-59 47.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-17 41.2% 2nd half: 6-11 54.5% Game: 13-28 46.4%
FT % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 3-3 100.0 Game: 5-8 62.5%
Deadball Rebounds 1

Kentucky 87 • 4-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	4-4	0-0	2-2	1	0	1	2	10	0	2	2	0	12
25	Washington, PJ	f	7-11	0-1	5-7	1	10	11	0	19	4	3	1	3	27
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	4-10	2-5	3-6	1	6	7	2	13	1	2	0	1	26
05	Quickley, Immanuel	g	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	6	6	3	3	3	1	0	0	31
14	Herro, Tyler	g	6-14	3-8	0-0	0	3	3	1	15	7	1	0	0	25
00	Green, Quade		3-5	1-3	4-4	0	1	1	2	11	0	3	0	2	22
02	Hagans, Ashton		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	1	3	0	1	16
22	Travis, Reid		3-5	0-0	2-3	2	1	3	2	8	2	4	1	1	25
23	Montgomery, EJ		2-4	0-0	2-2	1	1	2	2	6	2	0	2	0	16
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		31-55	7-18	18-24	7	30	37	16	87	20	19	6	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-30 60.0% 2nd half: 13-25 52.0% Game: 31-55 56.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 3-8 37.5% Game: 7-18 38.9%
FT % 1st Half: 11-16 68.8% 2nd half: 7-8 87.5% Game: 18-24 75.0%
Deadball Rebounds 3,1

Officials: Todd Austin, Will Howard, K.B. Burdett Jr.
Technical fouls: Winthrop-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20070

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Winthrop	37	37	**74**
Kentucky	51	36	**87**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points WINTHR	24	27	6	0	39
UK	42	22	4	14	27

Last FG - WINTHROP 2nd-00:25, UK 2nd-03:14.
Largest lead - WINTHROP by 1 1st-19:07, UK by 26 2nd-12:44.
WINTHROP led for 00:21. UK led for 39:22. Game was tied for 00:17.
Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME SIX
#10/10 KENTUCKY 77, TENNESSEE STATE 62

Official Basketball Box Score – Game Totals – Final Statistics
Tennessee State vs Kentucky
11/23/18 7:00 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Tennessee State 62 • 2-4

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Egbuta, Emmanuel	f	4-10	0-0	5-7	1	5	6	4	13	1	0	0	2	30
30	Chaffee Jr., Stokley	f	3-4	0-0	2-2	3	1	4	4	8	0	2	0	0	22
00	Chaney, Armani	g	1-6	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	4	2	0	0	24
03	Fitzpatrick-Dorsey	g	8-14	2-5	0-2	1	3	4	3	18	2	4	0	0	31
11	McKnight, Kamar	g	3-10	1-3	3-6	3	6	9	3	10	2	1	0	1	32
01	Littlejohn, Michael		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
04	Moore, Damarri		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
05	Morris, Dave		0-4	0-2	2-2	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	17
10	Davis, Tripp		2-2	2-2	0-0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	1	17
22	Cummings, Daniel		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	8
23	Henderson, Dajion		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	8
	Team					2	0	2				4			
	Totals		22-54	6-16	12-19	10	18	28	29	62	11	19	1	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-28 35.7% 2nd half: 12-26 46.2% Game: 22-54 40.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 6-16 37.5%
FT % 1st Half: 5-9 55.6% 2nd half: 7-10 70.0% Game: 12-19 63.2%
Deadball Rebounds 6,2

Kentucky 77 • 5-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Pt FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	10
25	Washington, PJ	f	1-6	0-1	4-8	2	5	7	2	6	0	1	1	2	27
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	7-15	0-2	13-18	3	4	7	4	27	0	2	0	0	35
05	Quickley, Immanuel	g	3-6	1-2	2-2	1	0	1	0	9	2	1	0	0	26
14	Herro, Tyler	g	3-7	2-6	0-0	0	4	4	3	8	0	2	0	1	25
00	Green, Quade		2-6	1-3	0-0	1	1	2	0	5	4	0	0	1	17
02	Hagans, Ashton		1-4	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	12
22	Travis, Reid		4-4	0-0	5-9	4	5	9	4	13	1	2	2	0	24
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-3	0-0	3-4	3	3	6	1	5	0	1	2	0	24
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		23-52	4-15	27-41	14	23	37	14	77	8	14	5	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-27 33.3% 2nd half: 14-25 56.0% Game: 23-52 44.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-10 10.0% 2nd half: 3-5 60.0% Game: 4-15 26.7%
FT % 1st Half: 16-20 80.0% 2nd half: 11-21 52.4% Game: 27-41 65.9%
Deadball Rebounds 9

Officials: Don Daily, Patrick Evans, Rob Rorke
Technical fouls: Tennessee State-None. Kentucky-Richards

BOX SCORES

GAME 10
#19/18 KENTUCKY 88, UTAH 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Utah vs Kentucky
12/15/18 5 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

Utah 61 • 4-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Tillman, Donnie	f	1-6	1-3	0-0	3	2	5	1	3	3	1	1	1	25
11	Gach, Both	f	8-10	4-6	2-2	1	2	3	2	22	1	3	0	1	26
21	Battin, Riley	f	2-7	1-4	0-0	2	5	7	0	5	0	2	0	0	32
34	Johnson, Jayce	c	5-6	0-0	1-1	1	1	2	3	11	0	0	1	0	23
02	Barefield, Sedrick	g	1-7	0-3	2-3	1	3	4	1	4	5	3	0	0	30
01	Jones, Charles		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	13
05	Van Dyke, Parker		2-4	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	14
13	Topalovic, Novak		0-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	11
20	Allen, Timmy		3-5	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	4	7	0	1	0	0	19
25	Rydalch, Beau		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
31	Morley, Brandon		2-4	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	7
	Team					2	1	3							
	Totals		24-54	7-23	6-8	13	18	31	15	61	12	18	2	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-29 41.4% 2nd half: 12-25 48.0% Game: 24-54 44.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-12 25.0% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 7-23 30.4%
FT % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 6-8 75.0%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Kentucky 88 • 8-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	7-10	0-1	2-4	1	2	3	0	16	1	0	0	0	32
25	Washington, PJ	f	4-8	0-2	1-2	3	1	4	0	9	1	1	3	2	31
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	1-7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	7	2	0	1	23
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	8-9	6-7	2-2	0	2	2	2	24	0	2	0	1	33
14	Herro, Tyler	g	7-12	2-6	1-2	0	2	2	0	17	1	0	0	2	31
04	Richards, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	12
05	Quickley, Immanuel		4-7	2-3	2-2	0	1	1	3	12	2	1	0	0	23
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	Baker, Jemarl		2-2	2-2	0-0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	2
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-3	0-0	0-0	2	3	5	0	2	1	0	1	0	12
	Team					1	3	4							
	Totals		34-58	12-21	8-12	7	16	23	10	88	13	6	5	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-32 53.1% 2nd half: 17-26 65.4% Game: 34-58 58.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% Game: 12-21 57.1%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 7-10 70.0% Game: 8-12 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds: 3,1

Officials: Doug Shows, Rand McCall, Chuck Jones
Technical fouls: Utah-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 21922

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Utah	27	34	**61**
Kentucky	41	47	**88**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UTAH	28	9	7	8	16
UK	34	34	11	11	20

Last FG - UTAH 2nd-02:56, UK 2nd-00:40.
Largest lead - UTAH by 8 1st-16:59, UK by 28 2nd-00:40.
UTAH led for 05:06. UK led for 33:21. Game was tied for 01:33.
Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME 11
#19/18 KENTUCKY 80, #9/10 NORTH CAROLINA 72

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs #9/10 North Carolina
12/22/18 5:15 p.m. ET at United Center, Chicago

Kentucky 80 • 9-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	6-15	1-4	7-11	3	4	7	2	20	3	1	1	0	38
25	Washington, PJ	f	5-9	1-3	0-0	3	7	10	2	11	8	2	2	0	30
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	2-6	0-0	3-4	1	3	4	3	7	3	5	1	0	31
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	7-11	4-7	3-4	0	3	3	5	21	3	1	0	3	23
14	Herro, Tyler	g	6-17	3-8	0-1	1	3	4	2	15	5	3	0	1	36
04	Richards, Nick		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	5	6	1	2	0	0	2	0	10
05	Quickley, Immanuel		0-1	0-1	2-2	0	3	3	2	2	1	3	1	0	15
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	15
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	2
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		28-65	9-26	15-22	12	32	44	18	80	24	18	8	12	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-35 40.0% 2nd half: 14-30 46.7% Game: 28-65 43.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-15 26.7% 2nd half: 5-11 45.5% Game: 9-26 34.6%
FT % 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd half: 7-10 70.0% Game: 15-22 68.2%
Deadball Rebounds: 3,1

#9/10 North Carolina 72 • 8-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
15	Garrison Brooks	f	3-3	0-0	1-1	2	6	8	4	7	2	3	0	1	19
32	Luke Maye	f	6-13	3-5	1-2	1	5	6	4	16	1	2	1	2	33
02	Coby White	g	3-10	1-4	1-2	0	2	2	2	8	2	4	0	1	30
13	Cameron Johnson	g	6-10	2-4	3-4	0	4	4	1	17	2	5	0	1	30
24	Kenny Williams	g	4-10	1-2	2-4	1	5	6	3	11	5	1	0	1	27
00	Seventh Woods		2-4	0-0	3-3	0	1	1	3	7	3	2	0	1	15
01	Leaky Black		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
03	Andrew Platek		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
04	Brandon Robinson		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
05	Nassir Little		2-8	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	0	14
11	Shea Rush		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
21	Sterling Manley		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
22	Walker Miller		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
25	Caleb Ellis		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
39	KJ Smith		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
42	Brandon Huffman		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		27-63	7-18	11-16	5	28	33	19	72	18	18	3	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-34 41.2% 2nd half: 13-29 44.8% Game: 27-63 42.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 5-13 38.5% Game: 7-18 38.9%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 10-14 71.4% Game: 11-16 68.8%
Deadball Rebounds: 3,1

Officials: Patrick Evans,Chris Rastatter,Ted Valentine
Technical fouls: Kentucky-TEAM. #9/10 North Carolina-None.
Attendance: 15124
2018-19 Men's Basketball. Round: 0. Kentucky vs North Carolina. Played at .

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	40	40	**80**
#9/10 North Carolina	31	41	**72**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UK	32	23	12	19	6
UNC	32	16	10	20	13

Last FG - UK 2nd-03:53, UNC 2nd-00:40.
Largest lead - UK by 12 2nd-19:29, UNC by 3 1st-13:44.
UK led for 35:33. UNC led for 02:53. Game was tied for 01:34.
Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 12
#16/15 KENTUCKY 71, LOUISVILLE 58

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Louisville
12/29/18 2 p.m. at KFC Yum Center | Louisville, Ky.

Kentucky 71 • 10-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	4-8	0-1	1-2	1	3	4	3	9	0	0	0	2	30
25	Washington, PJ	f	2-3	0-0	1-2	2	6	8	3	5	3	1	4	1	33
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	5-11	0-1	1-2	2	0	2	3	11	3	1	0	3	24
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	5-13	1-5	4-4	1	6	7	2	15	2	2	0	1	34
14	Herro, Tyler	g	10-13	4-6	0-0	1	4	5	2	24	1	2	1	2	36
04	Richards, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
05	Quickley, Immanuel		1-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	2	2	0	2	18
13	Baker, Jemarl		1-4	1-4	0-0	1	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	8
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-2	0-1	0-1	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	10
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		29-57	6-20	7-11	10	24	34	21	71	11	9	8	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-27 55.6% 2nd half: 14-30 46.7% Game: 29-57 50.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 2-10 20.0% Game: 6-20 30.0%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% Game: 7-11 63.6%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Louisville 58 • 9-4

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
24	Dwayne Sutton	f	0-3	0-2	2-2	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	27
33	Jordan Nwora	f	7-17	1-5	2-3	2	5	7	1	17	0	1	0	3	39
23	Steven Enoch	c	2-6	0-1	1-2	3	6	9	3	5	0	1	1	0	26
01	Christen Cunningham	g	8-14	3-5	1-2	0	2	2	0	20	4	2	0	1	35
02	Darius Perry	g	2-4	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	5	0	5	0	0	18
04	Khwan Fore		1-4	0-1	1-2	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	13
05	Malik Williams		0-2	0-1	2-4	2	4	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	14
13	VJ King		0-3	0-2	2-2	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	11
30	Ryan McMahon		0-2	0-1	2-2	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	17
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		20-55	5-20	13-19	13	26	39	13	58	7	12	2	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-24 41.7% 2nd half: 10-31 32.3% Game: 20-55 36.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 1-10 10.0% Game: 5-20 25.0%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 10-15 66.7% Game: 13-19 68.4%
Deadball Rebounds: 4

Officials: Pat Driscoll,Jeff Clark,Ron Groover
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Louisville-None.
Attendance: 20882
2018-19 Men's Basketball.

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	42	29	**71**
Louisville	27	31	**58**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UK	42	13	8	10	7
UL	22	5	8	4	9

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:16, UL 2nd-00:37.
Largest lead - UK by 16 2nd-02:35, UL by 3 1st-19:34.
UK led for 36:39. UL led for 01:09. Game was tied for 02:12.
Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

GAME 13
ALABAMA 77, #13/14 KENTUCKY 75

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Alabama
1/5/19 12 p.m. CT at Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Coleman Coliseum)

Kentucky 75 • 10-3, 0-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	6-13	0-2	0-1	1	5	6	3	12	1	5	0	0	29
25	Washington, PJ	f	4-10	0-3	7-8	1	6	7	4	15	1	1	0	1	31
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	5-10	0-0	2-2	1	2	3	2	12	6	2	0	3	33
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	5-10	1-3	2-2	1	6	7	3	13	4	1	0	3	30
14	Herro, Tyler	g	4-12	2-6	2-2	0	3	3	2	12	0	1	0	0	35
04	Richards, Nick		0-1	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	13
05	Quickley, Immanuel		3-5	2-4	0-0	0	2	2	1	8	0	1	0	0	15
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		28-65	5-18	14-17	6	26	32	15	75	14	11	1	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-30 50.0% 2nd half: 13-35 37.1% Game: 28-65 43.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-6 33.3% 2nd half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 5-18 27.8%
FT % 1st Half: 8-9 88.9% 2nd half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 14-17 82.4%
Deadball Rebounds: 1

Alabama 77 • 10-3, 1-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Hall, Donta	f	5-7	0-0	1-3	2	8	10	1	11	0	1	0	0	30
34	Mack, Tevin	f	8-12	6-8	0-0	1	4	5	1	22	1	2	0	0	29
02	Lewis Jr., Kira	g	4-14	2-6	2-2	0	2	2	2	12	3	4	0	0	34
10	Jones, Herbert	g	4-8	0-0	2-2	1	7	8	4	10	6	2	0	0	23
12	Ingram, Dazon	g	2-7	1-2	6-6	1	3	4	2	11	4	5	0	0	30
01	Norris, Riley		0-2	0-2	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
03	Reese, Alex		2-6	1-2	0-0	1	3	4	1	5	0	1	1	0	13
05	Johnson Jr, Avery		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
23	Petty, John		2-5	0-3	2-4	0	1	1	2	6	0	2	2	0	16
30	Smith, Galin		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	7
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		27-59	10-23	13-17	7	33	40	16	77	14	17	4	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-31 48.4% 2nd half: 12-28 42.9% Game: 27-59 45.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 10-23 43.5%
FT % 1st Half: 1-3 33.3% 2nd half: 12-14 85.7% Game: 13-17 76.5%
Deadball Rebounds: 3

Officials: Doug Shows, Chuck Jones, Brian Shey
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Alabama-None.
Attendance: 12424

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	40	35	**75**
Alabama	38	39	**77**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points UK	36	20	10	8	11
UA	32	9	9	6	11

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:04, UA 2nd-01:01.
Largest lead - UK by 5 1st-09:38, UA by 11 2nd-03:11.
UK led for 10:10. UA led for 25:49. Game was tied for 04:01.
Score tied - 9 times.
Lead changed - 10 times.

GAME 14
#18/18 KENTUCKY 85, TEXAS A&M 74

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Texas A&M vs Kentucky
01/8/19 7 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

Texas A&M 74 • 6-7, 0-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Flagg, Savion	f	5-11	3-4	0-0	2	7	9	0	13	3	4	1	0	39
21	Mekowulu, Christian	f	1-3	0-0	4-4	0	4	4	2	6	0	0	2	1	25
00	Chandler, Jay	g	7-9	0-0	4-4	0	1	1	4	18	0	2	0	1	28
02	Starks, TJ	g	7-15	2-5	2-3	0	0	0	4	18	0	5	0	2	34
11	Mitchell, Wendell	g	3-10	2-4	2-2	1	5	6	3	10	5	4	0	1	29
13	Mahan, Brandon		1-4	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	16
24	Walker, John		2-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	4	0	2	0	1	14
32	Nebo, Josh		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	15
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		27-56	8-17	12-13	8	21	29	19	74	8	19	3	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-27 51.9% 2nd half: 13-29 44.8% Game: 27-56 48.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd half: 4-9 44.4% Game: 8-17 47.1%
FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 10-11 90.9% Game: 12-13 92.3%
Deadball Rebounds: 1,1

Kentucky 85 • 11-3, 1-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	3-6	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	2	6	1	0	1	1	30
25	Washington, PJ	f	4-8	0-2	1-1	1	4	5	2	9	2	1	0	1	28
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	4-6	0-1	10-11	0	1	1	1	18	5	1	0	5	30
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	2-9	0-4	4-4	2	4	6	1	8	2	4	0	0	27
14	Herro, Tyler	g	7-14	3-7	4-4	2	3	5	3	21	1	4	0	0	36
04	Richards, Nick		2-2	0-0	1-1	0	1	1	2	5	0	0	2	0	11
05	Quickley, Immanuel		4-4	2-2	0-1	0	1	1	0	10	2	0	0	3	13
13	Baker, Jemarl		1-3	1-2	1-1	0	1	1	2	4	3	1	0	0	13
23	Montgomery, EJ		2-4	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	4	0	1	2	1	12
	Team					0	2	2							
	Totals		29-56	6-18	21-23	7	21	28	13	85	16	12	5	11	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-29 48.3% 2nd half: 15-27 55.6% Game: 29-56 51.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 6-18 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 14-16 87.5% 2nd half: 7-7 100.0 Game: 21-23 91.3%
Deadball Rebounds: 0

Officials: Pat Adams, Michael Roberts, Ron Groover
Technical fouls: Texas A&M-Mekowulu, Christian; Walker, John. Kentucky-Washington, PJ.
Attendance: 22048

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Texas A&M	34	40	**74**
Kentucky	46	39	**85**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points TAMU	32	17	8	10	9
UK	42	22	6	11	23

Last FG - TAMU 2nd-00:01, UK 2nd-00:49.
Largest lead - TAMU by 10 1st-16:25, UK by 14 1st-06:02.
TAMU led for 08:09. UK led for 30:13. Game was tied for 00:58.
Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME 15
#18/18 KENTUCKY 56, VANDERBILT 47

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Vanderbilt vs Kentucky
1/12/19 8:30pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

Vanderbilt 47 • 9-6, 0-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
24	Nesmith, Aaron	f	5-11	1-6	0-0	2	3	5	3	11	1	1	0	0	35
32	Ryan, Matt	f	1-7	1-6	0-0	0	1	1	3	3	0	0	1	0	24
11	Shittu, Simisola	c	4-10	0-1	0-1	3	2	5	2	8	0	3	1	1	32
00	Lee, Saben	g	2-6	1-2	4-6	0	1	1	2	9	2	0	0	1	31
02	Toye, Joe	g	3-7	2-6	1-3	1	5	6	0	9	1	0	0	0	36
01	Wetzell, Yanni		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	9
03	Evans, Maxwell		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	0	1	15
13	Moyer, Matthew		2-4	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	5	0	1	0	1	14
15	Brown, Clevon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		17-47	7-25	5-12	7	14	21	14	47	6	12	4	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-22 50.0% 2nd half: 6-25 24.0% Game: 17-47 36.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd half: 2-14 14.3% Game: 7-25 28.0%
FT % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 2-5 60.0% Game: 5-12 50.0%
Deadball Rebounds: 3

Kentucky 56 • 12-3, 2-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	2-6	0-0	1-2	3	9	12	2	5	1	2	2	0	30
25	Washington, PJ	f	1-4	0-1	1-4	5	5	10	3	3	1	0	1	1	32
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	7-9	0-1	1-2	1	3	4	1	15	4	5	0	3	33
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	6-8	1-2	2-2	0	1	1	5	15	1	4	0	0	24
14	Herro, Tyler	g	1-3	0-2	2-2	0	6	6	2	4	3	3	1	0	36
04	Richards, Nick		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	10
05	Quickley, Immanuel		4-9	3-7	1-2	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	20
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
23	Montgomery, EJ		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		22-44	4-16	8-14	12	26	38	14	56	10	15	5	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-25 48.0% 2nd half: 10-19 52.6% Game: 22-44 50.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 4-16 25.0%
FT % 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 8-14 57.1%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Officials: Steven Anderson, Olandis Poole, Garrick Shannon
Technical fouls: Vanderbilt-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 22504

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Vanderbilt	30	17	**47**
Kentucky	28	28	**56**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points VU	18	4	4

BOX SCORES

GAME 19
#8/9 KENTUCKY 71, #9/10 KANSAS 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
#9/10 Kansas vs Kentucky
1/26/19 6 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

#9/10 Kansas 63 • 16-4, 5-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Garrett, Marcus		1-9	0-2	2-2	1	4	5	4	4	0	3	1	2	32
01	Lawson, Dedric		7-18	2-3	4-4	4	11	15	4	20	2	1	1	1	39
05	Grimes, Quentin		5-9	3-5	0-2	0	1	1	3	13	2	1	0	0	29
11	Dotson, Devon		4-10	1-4	0-0	0	3	3	5	9	4	1	0	0	33
13	Lawson, KJ		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
24	Vick, Lagerald		4-9	2-5	0-0	1	5	6	3	10	1	1	0	1	35
30	Agbaji, Ochai		2-6	1-4	2-2	2	0	2	0	7	0	1	0	0	21
33	McCormack, David		0-1	0-0	0-1	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		23-63	9-23	8-11	9	27	36	21	63	9	8	2	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-36 36.1% 2nd half: 10-27 37.0% Game: 23-63 36.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd half: 6-13 46.2% Game: 9-23 39.1%
FT % 1st Half: 4-4 100.0 2nd half: 4-7 57.1% Game: 8-11 72.7%

Deadball Rebounds: 1

Kentucky 71 • 16-3, 5-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	7-11	0-0	4-6	7	5	12	3	18	0	1	0	0	28
25	Washington, PJ	f	7-17	0-4	6-8	3	10	13	1	20	1	0	2	1	36
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	4-11	1-3	3-5	1	1	2	1	12	8	4	0	3	35
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	5-9	3-4	2-2	2	8	10	3	15	0	0	0	0	32
14	Herro, Tyler	g	2-9	0-4	2-2	0	5	5	1	6	4	3	0	0	38
04	Richards, Nick		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	9
05	Quickley, Immanuel		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	11
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
23	Montgomery, EJ		0-2	0-1	0-0	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	7
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		25-64	4-18	17-23	17	32	49	13	71	14	11	8	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-39 33.3% 2nd half: 12-25 48.0% Game: 25-64 39.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 0-8 0.0% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 4-18 22.2%
FT % 1st Half: 4-6 66.7% 2nd half: 13-17 76.5% Game: 17-23 73.9%

Deadball Rebounds: 1,1

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Keith Kimble, Todd Austin
Technical fouls: #9/10 Kansas-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24387

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
#9/10 Kansas	33	30	**63**
Kentucky	30	41	**71**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
KU	20	10	17	6	63
UK	38	8	18	8	0

Last FG - KU 2nd-00:20, UK 2nd-03:15.
Largest lead - KU by 10 1st-09:45, UK by 10 2nd-02:23.
KU led for 15:37. UK led for 18:58. Game was tied for 05:25.

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 6 times.

GAME 20
#7/6 KENTUCKY 87, VANDERBILT 52

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Vanderbilt
1/29/19 8 p.m CT at Nashville, Tenn. (Memorial Gym)

Kentucky 87 • 17-3, 6-1 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	3	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	21
25	Washington, PJ	f	9-15	3-3	5-6	4	8	12	1	26	2	2	0	3	29
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	3-5	1-2	0-0	1	5	6	3	7	8	1	0	1	30
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	3-6	3-4	2-2	0	0	0	3	11	2	1	0	0	23
14	Herro, Tyler	g	6-13	0-3	0-0	0	3	3	0	12	2	1	0	3	29
04	Richards, Nick		4-5	0-0	6-10	0	1	1	3	14	0	0	4	0	19
05	Quickley, Immanuel		2-5	1-3	1-1	0	2	2	3	6	1	0	0	0	18
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	Baker, Jemarl		2-2	2-2	0-0	0	1	1	3	6	1	0	0	0	19
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-2	0-0	2-2	1	0	1	2	4	2	0	1	0	11
	Team					0	0	0			1				
	Totals		30-54	10-17	17-23	6	23	29	20	87	18	7	6	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-33 51.5% 2nd half: 13-21 61.9% Game: 30-54 55.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 5-7 71.4% Game: 10-17 58.8%
FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 11-16 68.8% Game: 17-23 73.9%

Deadball Rebounds: 4,1

Vanderbilt 52 • 9-11, 0-7 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Wetzell, Yanni	f	2-5	0-1	1-2	0	0	0	5	5	0	1	0	1	15
11	Shittu, Simisola	f	0-5	0-1	0-2	2	4	6	2	0	1	4	4	0	29
24	Nesmith, Aaron	f	5-9	4-6	0-0	0	3	3	3	14	3	3	1	0	38
32	Ryan, Matt	f	4-10	4-9	0-0	0	3	3	2	12	0	4	0	0	27
00	Lee, Saben	g	4-9	1-3	6-9	1	3	4	0	15	5	3	0	0	38
02	Toye, Joe		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	16
03	Evans, Maxwell		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
13	Moyer, Matthew		1-3	0-2	1-3	2	1	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	13
15	Brown, Clevon		1-2	0-1	1-2	1	0	1	4	3	0	2	2	0	15
	Team					3	1	4			1				
	Totals		17-46	9-24	9-18	9	20	29	19	52	10	20	3	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 5-20 25.0% 2nd half: 12-26 46.2% Game: 17-46 37.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-11 18.2% 2nd half: 7-13 53.8% Game: 9-24 37.5%
FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 6-13 46.2% Game: 9-18 50.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 5

Officials: Michael Stephens, Tony Greene, Owen Shortt
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Vanderbilt-None.
Attendance: 12298

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	45	42	**87**
Vanderbilt	15	37	**52**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	32	24	7	10	30
VU	12	9	5	4	6

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:28, VU 2nd-00:36.
Largest lead - UK by 38 2nd-09:11, VU by 1 1st-18:13.
UK led for 37:19. VU led for 01:22. Game was tied for 01:19.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 21
#7/6 KENTUCKY 65, FLORIDA 54

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Florida
2/2/19 4 p.m. at Exactech Arena - Gainesville, Fla.

Kentucky 65 • 18-3, 7-1 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	3-5	0-0	0-0	3	4	7	1	6	1	1	1	0	27
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-13	0-1	3-5	4	8	12	3	15	2	2	1	0	35
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	2-5	0-2	2-2	0	5	5	1	6	4	3	0	2	32
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	4-13	2-5	0-0	2	6	8	2	10	1	1	0	0	30
14	Herro, Tyler	g	6-8	3-4	4-4	1	5	6	3	19	2	3	0	1	30
04	Richards, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	5
05	Quickley, Immanuel		1-6	1-5	4-5	0	1	1	0	7	1	0	0	1	16
13	Baker, Jemarl		1-6	0-4	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	15
23	Montgomery, EJ		0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	10
	Team					2	2	4							
	Totals		23-56	6-21	13-16	14	32	46	12	65	13	12	2	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-34 35.3% 2nd half: 11-22 50.0% Game: 23-56 41.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-14 21.4% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 6-21 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 13-16 81.3%

Deadball Rebounds: 0

Florida 54 • 12-9, 4-4 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
11	Johnson, Keyontae	f	3-7	0-1	2-2	5	5	10	4	8	1	1	1	2	24
13	Hayes, Kevarrius	c	2-5	0-0	0-2	2	3	5	3	4	1	2	3	1	30
02	Nembhard, Andrew	g	5-11	2-4	0-0	0	0	0	3	12	3	2	0	2	36
05	Allen, KeVaughn	g	5-15	1-7	0-0	0	5	5	1	11	1	2	0	1	33
10	Locke, Noah	g	2-12	2-7	0-0	1	4	5	0	6	0	1	0	0	33
00	Okauru, Mike		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
03	Hudson, Jalen		4-8	0-0	3-6	2	2	4	0	11	0	1	0	0	19
15	Stokes, Isaiah		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
21	Bassett, Dontay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	9
24	Ballard, Deaundrae		1-5	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	12
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		22-63	5-19	5-10	12	22	34	15	54	7	9	6	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-30 43.3% 2nd half: 9-33 27.3% Game: 22-63 34.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 1-9 11.1% Game: 5-19 26.3%
FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 2-5 40.0% Game: 5-10 50.0%

Deadball Rebounds: 2

Officials: Doug Shows, Todd Austin, Wil Howard
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Florida-None.
Attendance: 10763

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	29	36	**65**
Florida	33	21	**54**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	26	10	10	4	9
UF	30	14	8	2	13

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:29, UF 2nd-00:25.
Largest lead - UK by 11 2nd-00:43. UF by 11 2nd-13:59.
UK led for 07:17. UF led for 31:25. Game was tied for 01:18.

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 7 times.

GAME 22
#5/5 KENTUCKY 76, SOUTH CAROLINA 48

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
South Carolina vs Kentucky
2/5/19 7 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

South Carolina 48 • 11-11, 6-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
21	Kotsar, Maik	f	2-4	0-0	0-2	1	2	3	3	4	2	2	0	0	27
24	Bryant, Keyshawn	f	2-5	1-1	1-2	0	4	4	1	6	1	5	0	1	21
30	Silva, Chris	f	1-4	0-1	2-4	1	3	4	4	4	0	2	0	1	15
00	Lawson, A.J.	g	6-14	0-2	0-0	2	2	4	2	12	1	3	0	0	31
04	Campbell, Tre	g	4-8	3-4	1-2	0	0	0	0	12	1	0	0	1	25
02	Gravett, Hassani		1-6	0-3	0-0	0	4	4	1	2	2	3	0	0	30
13	Haase, Felipe		2-8	1-4	1-2	3	0	3	3	6	2	3	1	1	30
20	Frink, Alanzo		1-2	0-0	0-2	1	1	2	5	2	0	0	1	2	8
23	Hinson, Evan		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	13
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		19-53	5-17	5-14	9	18	27	19	48	10	19	2	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-24 45.8% 2nd half: 8-29 27.6% Game: 19-53 35.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 1-10 10.0% Game: 5-17 29.4%
FT % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 5-14 35.7%

Deadball Rebounds: 5

Kentucky 76 • 19-3, 8-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	2-7	0-1	7-8	6	3	9	3	11	0	1	0	3	22
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-16	2-4	6-7	3	2	5	1	20	1	2	0	2	28
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	1-3	0-1	0-1	0	0	0	2	2	4	6	0	3	28
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	2-9	0-3	5-6	2	4	6	0	9	0	0	0	0	31
14	Herro, Tyler	g	5-11	1-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	11	1	1	0	0	29
04	Richards, Nick		2-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	4	4	0	1	0	1	11
05	Quickley, Immanuel		0-3	0-1	3-4	0	3	3	0	3	4	1	0	1	19
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	Baker, Jemarl		2-3	1-2	0-0	0	3	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	11
23	Montgomery, EJ		5-7	1-1	0-1	5	8	13	4	11	1	2	1	1	20
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		25-61	5-16	21-27	21	29	50	17	76	11	14	1	11	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-31 45.2% 2nd half: 11-30 36.7% Game: 25-61 41.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-9 33.3% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 5-16 31.3%
FT % 1st Half: 8-11 72.7% 2nd half: 13-16 81.3% Game: 21-27 77.8%

Deadball Rebounds: 3

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Pat Driscoll, Byron Jarrett
Technical fouls: South Carolina-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20496

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
South Carolina	28	20	**48**
Kentucky	39	37	**76**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
SC	22	13	7	2	10
UK	30	26	18	2	23

Last FG - SC 2nd-00:30, UK 2nd-00:16.
Largest lead - SC by 4 1st-12:05, UK by 29 2nd-03:23.
SC led for 08:01. UK led for 29:53. Game was tied for 02:06.

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 7 times.

GAME 23
#5/5 KENTUCKY 71, RV/#21 MISSISSIPPI STATE 67

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs RV / #21 Mississippi State
2/9/19 Noon CT at Starkville, Miss. (Humphrey Coliseum)

Kentucky 71 • 20-3 (9-1 SEC)

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	4-9	0-1	0-0	2	6	8	4	8	1	1	2	1	33
25	Washington, PJ	f	9-13	3-3	2-4	1	2	3	5	23	1	1	1	0	24
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	2-5	1-3	3-5	2	2	4	1	8	9	3	0	1	35
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	4-10	1-3	4-4	0	7	7	3	13	0	1	0	1	28
14	Herro, Tyler	g	5-9	2-4	0-0	0	2	2	0	12	1	1	0	0	33
04	Richards, Nick		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	7
05	Quickley, Immanuel		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
13	Baker, Jemarl		1-3	0-2	1-2	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	1	12
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-3	0-1	0-2	4	3	7	3	2	0	1	0	0	16
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		27-57	7-18	10-17	11	24	35	18	71	13	9	4	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-30 53.3% 2nd half: 11-27 40.7% Game: 27-57 47.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 7-18 38.9%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 7-13 53.8% Game: 10-17 58.8%

Deadball Rebounds: 4,1

RV / #21 Mississippi State 67 • 16-7 (4-6 SEC)

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Weatherspoon, Nick		4-8	0-0	1-2	0	2	2	4	9	3	1	1	0	26
01	Perry, Reggie		1-3	0-1	2-2	3	0	3	4	4	0	1	1	0	23
02	Peters, Lamar		6-13	4-6	0-0	1	2	3	3	16	2	2	0	2	34
11	Weatherspoon, Q		4-12	3-6	3-4	2	2	4	1	14	1	3	0	3	35
12	Woodard, Robert		3-6	0-1	3-4	0	5	5	2	9	1	0	2	1	24
23	Carter, Tyson		3-6	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	6	0	1	0	0	20
24	Ado, Abdul		1-2	0-0	4-5	1	3	4	4	6	0	1	2	0	26
35	Holman, Aric		1-3	0-1	1-1	0	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	12
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		23-53	7-16	14-18	8	17	25	18	67	7	9	6	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-23 47.8% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% Game: 23-53 43.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 0-4 0.0% 2nd half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 7-16 43.8%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 14-18 77.8%

Deadball Rebounds: 1,2

Officials: Don Daily, Chuck Jones, Owen Shortt
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Washington, PJ. RV/#21 Mississippi State-Perry, Reggie.
Attendance: 9019

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	40	31	**71**
RV/#21 Mississippi State	25	42	**67**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	34	9	9	4	7
MS	24	9	4	2	67

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:30, MS 2nd-01:18.
Largest lead - UK by 18 2nd-16:34, MS by 2 1st-19:10.
UK led for 32:40. MS led for 03:18. Game was tied for 04:02.

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME 24
#19/21 LSU 73, #5/5 KENTUCKY 71

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
#19/21 LSU vs Kentucky
2/12/19 7 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

#19/21 LSU 73 • 20-4, 10-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Reid, Naz		5-10	2-4	0-0	3	4	7	4	12	0	1	0	2	21
01	Smart, Javonte		2-7	0-2	4-4	1	3	4	2	8	5	0	0	0	28
03	Waters, Tremont		3-13	1-5	8-8	0	1	1	0	15	5	2	0	3	38
04	Mays, Skylar		3-13	1-6	4-5	0	2	2	2	11	1	1	0	2	31
11	Bigby-Williams, K.		2-2	0-0	1-2	1	4	5	1	5	0	0	2	0	23
14	Taylor, Marlon		3-5	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	3	7	0	1	0	0	21
22	Days, Darius		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	3	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	9
24	Williams, Emmitt		5-5	0-0	2-3	4	2	6	2	12	0	2	2	0	19
	Team					0	3	3							
	Totals		24-56	6-21	19-22	9	23	32	17	73	11	8	4	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-27 33.3% 2nd half: 15-29 51.7% Game: 24-56 42.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-13 38.5% 2nd half: 1-8 12.5% Game: 6-21 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 9-11 81.8% 2nd half: 10-11 90.9% Game: 19-22 86.4%

Deadball Rebounds: 2

Kentucky 71 • 20-4, 9-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	3-7	1-3	2-2	5	4	9	3	9	1	2	0	0	37
25	Washington, PJ	f	7-13	0-2	6-8	3	6	9	4	20	3	3	0	1	27
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	2-5	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	4	1	0	0	0	21
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	5-10	1-2	5-9	0	5	5	0	16	3	0	0	1	36
14	Herro, Tyler	g	5-13	2-5	0-0	0	1	1	3	12	4	1	1	1	39
04	Richards, Nick		0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
05	Quickley, Immanuel		1-5	1-4	0-0	0	4	4	3	3	1	3	0	0	21
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
23	Montgomery, EJ		2-5	0-0	2-2	4	1	5	1	6	1	0	0	0	13
	Team					3	2	5							
	Totals		25-60	5-19	16-23	15	24	39	17	71	14	9	1	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-30 46.7% 2nd half: 11-30 36.7% Game: 25-60 41.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 3-11 27.3% Game: 5-19 26.3%
FT % 1st Half: 10-14 71.4% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% Game: 16-23 69.6%

Deadball Rebounds: 4

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Tony Greene, Patrick Evans
Technical fouls: #19/21 LSU-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 23490

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
#19/21 LSU	32	41	**73**
Kentucky	40	31	**71**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
LSU	30	7	12	6	73
UK	34	6	17	4	10

Last FG - LSU 2nd-00:00, UK 2nd-01:12.
Largest lead - LSU by 5 2nd-02:14, UK by 9 2nd-18:51.
LSU led for 08:19. UK led for 28:06. Game was tied for 03:35.

Score tied - 7 times.
Lead changed - 10 times.

GAME 25
#5/5 KENTUCKY 86, #1/1 TENNESSEE 69

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
#1/1 Tennessee vs Kentucky
2/16/19 8 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

#1/1 Tennessee 69 • 23-2, 11-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Bone, Jordan		8-13	3-4	0-0	0	1	1	4	19	6	3	0	0	34
01	Turner, Lamonte		2-11	0-7	0-0	1	2	3	4	4	3	1	0	1	36
02	Williams, Grant		3-4	2-2	8-9	3	9	12	3	16	2	3	0	2	35
05	Schofield, Admiral		7-18	1-6	2-3	2	4	6

BOX SCORES

GAME 28
#4/4 KENTUCKY 70, ARKANSAS 66

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Arkansas vs Kentucky
2/26/19 9 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

Arkansas 66 • 14-14, 5-10

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	Gafford, Daniel	f	7-14	0-0	0-1	6	2	8	4	14	0	0	2	0	23
22	Osabuohien, Gabe	f	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	4	0	4	1	1	0	19
00	Sills, Desi	g	4-8	3-5	4-4	0	0	0	1	15	0	1	0	1	29
01	Joe, Isaiah	g	6-10	5-7	2-2	0	1	1	1	19	3	2	0	1	34
05	Harris, Jalen	g	0-9	0-3	1-3	0	2	2	4	1	3	1	0	1	30
02	Bailey, Adrio		0-2	0-1	0-0	1	4	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	15
11	Embery-Simpson, K.		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
13	Jones, Mason		3-9	2-4	1-3	0	1	1	3	9	3	0	0	1	25
35	Chaney, Reggie		3-5	0-0	2-2	0	2	2	2	8	1	1	0	1	17
	Team					2	1	3					1		
	Totals		23-61	10-20	10-15	10	17	27	23	66	14	7	3	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-32 43.8% 2nd half: 9-29 31.0% Game: 23-61 37.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 5-10 50.0% Game: 10-20 50.0%
FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 4-8 50.0% Game: 10-15 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds: 2,1

Kentucky 70 • 24-4, 13-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Montgomery, EJ	f	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	4	2	0	2	0	0	12
25	Washington, PJ	f	2-7	0-2	5-10	0	5	5	9	1	1	2	2	0	35
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	2-4	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	3	7	4	3	0	0	36
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	5-14	0-1	3-6	3	3	6	2	13	3	3	1	0	37
14	Herro, Tyler	g	9-10	5-6	6-6	0	4	4	1	29	3	1	1	2	36
04	Richards, Nick		2-4	0-0	3-4	5	10	15	4	7	0	2	3	0	25
05	Quickley, Immanuel		0-1	0-1	2-2	0	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	0	15
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-1	0-1	1-2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	4
	Team					0	3	3							
	Totals		21-42	6-13	22-32	9	31	40	19	70	12	15	7	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-20 45.0% 2nd half: 12-22 54.5% Game: 21-42 50.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 3-6 50.0% Game: 6-13 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 7-12 58.3% 2nd half: 15-20 75.0% Game: 22-32 68.8%
Deadball Rebounds: 4

Officials: Mike Nance, Ted Valentine, Brian O'Connell
Technical fouls: Arkansas-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 21998

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Arkansas	39	27	**66**
Kentucky	28	42	**70**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	22	16	9	2	17
UK	24	11	8	6	10

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

Last FG - AR 2nd-00:12, UK 2nd-01:55.
Largest lead - AR by 15 2nd-18:22, UK by 6 2nd-02:41.
AR led for 24:46. UK led for 12:37. Game was tied for 02:16.

GAME 29
#7/7 TENNESSEE 71, #4/4 KENTUCKY

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs #7/7 Tennessee
3/2/19 2 p.m. at Knoxville, Tenn. (Thompson-Boling Arena)

Kentucky 52 • 24-5, 13-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Richards, Nick	f	1-4	0-0	6-9	4	3	7	4	8	1	1	3	0	26
25	Washington, PJ	f	2-6	0-2	9-13	0	3	3	2	13	2	4	1	1	30
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	2-6	1-1	0-1	1	4	5	2	5	3	2	0	1	36
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	2-9	1-5	2-4	2	5	7	3	7	1	3	0	0	31
14	Herro, Tyler	g	2-11	0-5	2-2	0	6	6	1	6	3	5	0	0	35
05	Quickley, Immanuel		3-5	2-4	0-0	0	4	4	0	8	0	0	0	0	20
13	Baker, Jemarl		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	5
23	Montgomery, EJ		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	5	5	4	2	0	1	1	1	17
	Team					2	0	2			1				
	Totals		14-44	5-19	19-29	9	30	39	16	52	11	17	5	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 6-26 23.1% 2nd half: 8-18 44.4% Game: 14-44 31.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 5-19 26.3%
FT % 1st Half: 10-16 62.5% 2nd half: 9-13 69.2% Game: 19-29 65.5%
Deadball Rebounds: 3,1

#7/7 Tennessee 71 • 26-3, 14-2 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Bone, Jordan		11-15	5-5	0-0	0	3	3	2	27	3	0	0	2	35
01	Turner, Lamonte		2-10	0-4	0-0	0	2	2	2	4	6	1	0	2	30
02	Williams, Grant		7-13	2-4	8-11	2	5	7	3	24	2	2	0	1	32
05	Schofield, Admiral		3-13	0-6	1-2	1	6	7	3	7	1	0	2	1	35
10	Fulkerson, John		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	16
11	Alexander, Kyle		0-0	0-0	0-1	2	4	6	5	0	1	1	1	0	12
15	Walker, Derrick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
23	Bowden, Jordan		4-9	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	2	9	1	1	0	2	28
35	Pons, Yves		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		27-62	8-22	9-14	8	28	36	22	71	15	5	5	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-32 37.5% 2nd half: 15-30 50.0% Game: 27-62 43.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-11 36.4% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 8-22 36.4%
FT % 1st Half: 9-14 64.3% 2nd half: 0-0 0.0% Game: 9-14 64.3%
Deadball Rebounds: 1

Officials: Don Daily, Joe Lindsay, Byron Jarrett
Technical fouls: Kentucky-TEAM. #7/7 Tennessee-None.
Attendance: 21729

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	24	28	**52**
#7/7 Tennessee	37	34	**71**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	10	8	13	4	13
UT	28	18	11	7	71

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 5 times.

Last FG - UK 2nd-03:22, UT 2nd-00:12.
Largest lead - UK by 6 1st-17:59, UT by 20 2nd-16:17.
UK led for 03:08. UT led for 35:42. Game was tied for 01:08.

GAME 30
#6/6 KENTUCKY 80, OLE MISS 76

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Ole Miss
3/5/19 9 p.m. ET at Oxford, Miss. (The Pavilion at Ole Miss)

Kentucky 80 • 25-5, 14-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Montgomery, EJ	f	1-4	0-1	0-0	1	5	6	1	2	0	0	4	0	26
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-11	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	3	13	4	1	2	0	26
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	3-3	0-0	4-5	0	2	2	3	10	2	3	0	0	30
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	9-18	1-2	3-7	2	5	7	1	22	3	1	0	1	38
14	Herro, Tyler	g	8-12	2-4	2-2	0	5	5	1	20	2	0	0	3	38
04	Richards, Nick		2-3	0-0	2-2	1	3	4	5	6	0	1	1	0	18
05	Quickley, Immanuel		1-4	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	1	5	2	0	0	0	19
13	Baker, Jemarl		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	5
	Team					0	2	2					1		
	Totals		31-56	4-9	14-20	4	25	29	18	80	14	7	7	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-31 54.8% 2nd half: 14-25 56.0% Game: 31-56 55.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 4-9 44.4%
FT % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 12-15 80.0% Game: 14-20 70.0%
Deadball Rebounds: 0,1

Ole Miss 76 • 19-11, 9-8 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Hinson,Blake	f	0-4	0-3	0-0	1	0	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	14
12	Stevens, Bruce	f	2-9	1-5	6-6	4	3	7	1	11	3	3	1	1	33
03	Davis,Terence	g	8-15	4-8	5-5	1	11	12	2	25	3	1	1	2	39
04	Tyree,Breein	g	6-18	1-5	8-10	0	3	3	2	21	4	2	0	1	38
20	Davis, D.C.	g	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	17
01	Naylor,Zach		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
02	Shuler,Devontae		4-7	2-4	0-0	1	5	6	3	10	1	1	0	0	28
13	Olejniczak, Dominik		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
14	Buffen, KJ		3-4	0-0	1-1	0	2	2	3	7	2	0	1	0	22
	Team					2	2	4							
	Totals		24-59	8-25	20-22	10	27	37	20	76	14	9	3	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-24 50.0% 2nd half: 12-35 34.3% Game: 24-59 40.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-11 36.4% 2nd half: 4-14 28.6% Game: 8-25 32.0%
FT % 1st Half: 11-13 84.6% 2nd half: 9-9 100.0 Game: 20-22 90.9%
Deadball Rebounds: 1

Officials: Doug Shows, Steven Anderson, Wil Howard
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Ole Miss-None.
Attendance: 9500

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	38	42	**80**
Ole Miss	39	37	**76**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	34	12	4	2	13
OM	24	4	13	10	17

Score tied - 11 times.
Lead changed - 9 times.

Last FG - UK 2nd-03:01, OM 2nd-00:07.
Largest lead - UK by 8 1st-06:05, OM by 6 1st-14:28.
UK led for 20:12. OM led for 14:04. Game was tied for 05:44.

GAME 31
#6/6 KENTUCKY 66, NR/RV FLORIDA 57

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
NR/RV Florida vs Kentucky
3/9/19 2 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky.

NR/RV Florida 57 • 17-14, 9-9

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Okauru, Mike		2-4	1-3	1-2	0	1	1	1	6	1	0	0	1	18
01	Johnson, Chase		1-8	0-2	1-2	0	0	0	4	3	8	1	0	0	37
02	Nembhard, Andrew		6-16	0-5	1-2	2	4	6	3	13	1	1	0	1	33
03	Hudson, Jalen		1-6	1-4	0-0	0	3	3	3	3	1	2	0	1	24
05	Allen, KeVaughn		2-4	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	1	24
10	Locke, Noah		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	11
11	Johnson, Keyontae		8-9	0-0	3-4	2	3	5	3	19	2	0	2	0	32
13	Hayes, Kevarrius		3-5	0-1	0-1	0	1	1	2	6	1	0	0	1	13
14	Krause, Mak		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	8
	Team					0	1	1				1			
	Totals		24-54	3-18	6-11	5	18	23	21	57	14	6	2	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-27 48.1% 2nd half: 11-27 40.7% Game: 24-54 44.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 1-9 11.1% Game: 3-18 16.7%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 6-11 54.5%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Kentucky 66 • 26-5, 15-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Montgomery, EJ	f	0-2	0-0	0-1	4	3	7	4	0	0	0	1	1	28
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-14	0-2	3-3	3	6	9	2	15	1	4	0	0	38
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	3-6	1-2	7-9	0	3	3	3	14	2	3	0	1	30
10	David, Jonny	g	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14	Herro, Tyler	g	6-11	0-1	4-4	0	6	6	1	16	2	0	0	1	38
03	Johnson, Keldon		4-8	1-1	5-7	1	6	7	1	14	3	2	1	0	34
04	Richards, Nick		0-1	0-0	3-4	2	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	9
05	Quickley, Immanuel		0-3	0-0	4-4	0	3	3	3	4	1	1	0	0	20
13	Baker, Jemarl		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		19-46	2-7	26-32	11	28	39	17	66	9	11	2	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-22 40.9% 2nd half: 10-24 41.7% Game: 19-46 41.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd half: 0-3 0.0% Game: 2-7 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 10-13 76.9% 2nd half: 16-19 84.2% Game: 26-32 81.3%
Deadball Rebounds: 4

Officials: Don Daily, Mike Nance, Rob Rorke
Technical fouls: NR/RV Florida-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24456

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
NR/RV Florida	31	26	**57**
Kentucky	30	36	**66**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	32	15	7	0	57
UK	22	10	11	6	21

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 7 times.

Last FG - UF 2nd-00:09, UK 2nd-00:40.
Largest lead - UF by 3 1st-01:25, UK by 12 2nd-05:47.
UF led for 06:32. UK led for 30:10. Game was tied for 03:18.

GAME 32
#4/4 KENTUCKY 73, ALABAMA 55

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Alabama vs Kentucky
3/15/19 6:03 p.m. CT at Bridgestone Arena (Nashville, Tenn.)

Alabama 55 • 18-15, 8-10 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Hall, Donta	f	3-9	0-0	8-8	2	4	6	0	14	0	1	1	0	27
30	Smith, Galin	f	2-3	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	22
01	Norris, Riley	g	1-4	0-1	0-0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	16
02	Lewis Jr., Kira	g	1-5	1-2	0-0	1	3	4	3	3	2	3	1	0	27
10	Jones, Herbert	g	1-4	0-1	0-0	2	1	3	2	2	0	3	0	1	10
03	Reese, Alex		6-12	3-6	0-2	0	6	6	3	15	0	1	0	0	21
05	Johnson Jr, Avery		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
12	Ingram, Daron		1-4	1-2	0-1	5	6	11	2	3	2	0	1	0	25
15	Barnes, Tyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
23	Petty, John		2-7	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	0	5	3	3	0	1	27
24	Schaffer, Lawson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
34	Mack, Tevin		0-7	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	17
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		17-56	6-18	15-19	11	21	32	15	55	8	11	3	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-33 30.3% 2nd half: 7-23 30.4% Game: 17-56 30.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 6-18 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 5-7 71.4% 2nd half: 10-12 83.3% Game: 15-19 78.9%
Deadball Rebounds: 1,1

Kentucky 73 • 27-5, 15-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Montgomery, EJ	f	1-3	1-1	0-0	1	1	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	10
25	Washington, PJ	f	4-12	1-3	1-3	2	10	12	0	10	4	2	4	2	35
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	1-6	0-2	0-0	3	3	6	4	2	6	1	0	1	29
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	1-7	0-1	2-2	0	3	3	4	4	1	2	1	3	22
14	Herro, Tyler	g	8-14	2-4	2-2	0	6	6	0	20	2	3	1	2	36
04	Richards, Nick		3-4	0-0	3-4	1	2	3	1	9	0	1	1	0	12
05	Quickley, Immanuel		4-4	3-3	1-2	0	1	1	2	12	0	1	0	0	18
10	David, Jonny		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	Baker, Jemarl		2-3	1-1	1-2	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	14
22	Travis, Reid		4-6	0-0	0-0	3	4	7	4	8	0	1	3	0	23
	Team					2	2	4							
	Totals		28-59	7-15	10-15	12	30	42	19	73	15	11	11	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-30 46.7% 2nd half: 14-29 48.3% Game: 28-59 47.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 4-8 50.0% Game: 7-15 46.7%
FT % 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd half: 2-3 66.7% Game: 10-15 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds: 2,1

Officials: Todd Austin, Steven Anderson, Owen Shortt
Technical fouls: Alabama-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 19575

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Alabama	29	26	**55**
Kentucky	39	34	**73**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	18	4	8	0	29
UA	34	12	10	10	35

Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

Last FG - UA 2nd-02:29, UK 2nd-00:48.
Largest lead - UA by 2 1st-19:42, UK by 18 2nd-00:48.
UA led for 00:51. UK led for 35:53. Game was tied for 03:16.

GAME 33
#8/8 TENNESSEE 82, #4/4 KENTUCKY 78

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
#8/8 Tennessee vs Kentucky
3/16/19 2:30 p.m. CT at Bridgestone Arena (Nashville, Tenn.)

#8/8 Tennessee 82 • 29-4, 15-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Bone, Jordan		4-8	2-4	8-8	0	1	1	0	18	5	1	0	0	36
01	Turner, Lamonte		3-9	1-4	0-0	1	2	3	1	7	2	2	0	1	34
02	Williams, Grant		5-10	1-2	9-11	3	4	7	4	20	1	0	1	1	31
05	Schofield, Admiral		8-18	4-8	1-2	1	2	3	3	21	5	0	0	1	35
10	Fulkerson, John		2-2	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	1	5	0	0	1	0	11
11	Alexander, Kyle		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	5	2	2	0	1	1	16
15	Walker, Derrick		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
23	Bowden, Jordan		3-5	2-3	1-2	0	5	5	2	9	0	0	1	2	26
35	Pons, Yves		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		26-56	10-21	20-25	10	19	29	18	82	13	6	4	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-26 53.8% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% Game: 26-56 46.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-9 77.8% 2nd half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 10-21 47.6%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 19-23 82.6% Game: 20-25 80.0%
Deadball Rebounds: 4

Kentucky 78 • 27-6, 15-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Rebounds Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Travis, Reid	f	3-6	1-2	4-6	3	3	6	5	11	0	2	0	1	28
25	Washington, PJ	f	6-11	0-0	4-4	2	3	5	4	16	0	1	1	0	20
02	Hagans, Ashton	g	4-9	1-2	1-2	0	1	1	3	10	12	3	0	1	38
03	Johnson, Keldon	g	6-10	1-2	2-4	1	5	6	2	15	0	2	0	1	35
14	Herro, Tyler	g	4-9	2-5	0-0	0	3	3	1	10	4	1	0	1	38
04	Richards, Nick		2-2	0-0	2-2	2	2	4	1	6	0	1	0	0	10
05	Quickley, Immanuel		1-4	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	9
23	Montgomery, EJ		4-5	0-0	0-1	0	1	1	2	8	0	1	1	1	22
	Team					2	1	3	1						
	Totals		30-56	5-11	13-19	11	21	32	20	78	17	11	2	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-29 44.8% 2nd half: 17-27 63.0% Game: 30-56 53.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 1-2 50.0% Game: 5-11 45.5%
FT % 1st Half: 4-6 66.7% 2nd half: 9-13 69.2% Game: 13-19 68.4%
Deadball Rebounds: 2

Officials: Doug Shows, Don Daily, Steven Anderson
Technical fouls: #8/8 Tennessee-None. Kentucky-TEAM.
Attendance: 20933

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
#8/8 Tennessee	36	46	**82**
Kentucky	34	44	**78**

	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
Points	44	11	14	0	82
UT	22	8	14	8	16

Score tied - 9 times.
Lead changed - 15 times.

Last FG - UT 2nd-00:30, UK 2nd-00:04.
Largest lead - UT by 5 1st-04:25, UK by 8 2nd-02:58.
UT led for 13:52. UK led for 22:46. Game was tied for 03:22.

GAME 34
#2 KENTUCKY VS. #15 ABILENE CHRISTIAN

GAME 35
NCAA TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND

GAME 36
NCAA TOURNAMENT SWEET 16

2018-19 SEASON STATISTICS

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	27-6	17-1	8-2	2-3
CONFERENCE	15-3	8-1	7-2	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	12-3	9-0	1-0	2-3

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
25	Washington, PJ	33-33	961	29.1	174-338	.515	31-74	.419	108-160	.675	76	173	249	7.5	81	3	62	61	40	27	487	14.8
14	Herro, Tyler	33-33	1063	32.2	167-356	.469	57-153	.373	79-84	.940	11	138	149	4.5	41	0	77	54	11	36	470	14.2
03	Johnson, Keldon	33-32	1013	30.7	150-324	.463	40-103	.388	103-146	.705	42	148	190	5.8	73	3	53	56	5	26	443	13.4
22	Travis, Reid	28-24	771	27.5	106-204	.520	7-25	.280	93-128	.727	74	118	192	6.9	70	2	24	44	23	12	312	11.1
00	Green, Quade	9-0	160	17.8	22-49	.449	11-26	.423	17-19	.895	3	9	12	1.3	7	0	21	21	0	9	72	8.0
02	Hagans, Ashton	33-26	932	28.2	90-191	.471	13-44	.295	61-82	.744	18	61	79	2.4	64	0	148	80	4	58	254	7.7
05	Quickley, Immanuel	33-7	615	18.6	51-128	.398	27-74	.365	53-64	.828	2	57	59	1.8	41	0	42	31	1	14	182	5.5
04	Richards, Nick	33-3	399	12.1	45-77	.584	0-0	.000	44-64	.688	54	61	115	3.5	70	2	7	24	45	4	134	4.1
23	Montgomery, EJ	33-6	499	15.1	56-117	.479	2-10	.200	15-25	.600	55	76	131	4.0	71	0	12	25	36	11	129	3.9
13	Baker, Jemarl	24-0	200	8.3	17-51	.333	11-38	.289	4-8	.500	1	11	12	0.5	19	0	11	9	2	2	49	2.0
10	David, Jonny	9-1	12	1.3	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										46	33	79		2			11				
	Total.....	33	6625		878-1835	.478	199-547	.364	577-780	.740	383	885	1268	38.4	539	10	457	417	167	199	2532	76.7
	Opponents.....	33	6625		769-1907	.403	256-731	.350	365-517	.706	308	664	972	29.5	648	-	371	414	99	187	2159	65.4

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	2532	2159
Points per game	76.7	65.4
Scoring margin	+11.3	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	878-1835	769-1907
Field goal pct	.478	.403
3 POINT FG-ATT	199-547	256-731
3-point FG pct	.364	.350
3-pt FG made per game	6.0	7.8
FREE THROWS-ATT	577-780	365-517
Free throw pct	.740	.706
F-Throws made per game	17.5	11.1
REBOUNDS	1268	972
Rebounds per game	38.4	29.5
Rebounding margin	+9.0	-
ASSISTS	457	371
Assists per game	13.8	11.2
TURNOVERS	417	414
Turnovers per game	12.6	12.5
Turnover margin	-0.1	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.1	0.9
STEALS	199	187
Steals per game	6.0	5.7
BLOCKS	167	99
Blocks per game	5.1	3.0
ATTENDANCE	390510	211745
Home games-Avg/Game	18-21695	10-12696
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	5-16957

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	1238	1281	13	2532
Opponents	1030	1115	14	2159

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
1	11/6/18	vs #4/3 Duke	L	84-118	18907
	11/9/18	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W	71-59	20277
2	11/14/18	NORTH DAKOTA	W	96-58	18555
2	11/18/18	VMI	W	92-82	20207
2	11/21/18	WINTHROP	W	87-74	20070
2	11/23/18	TENNESSEE STATE	W	77-62	20224
	11/28/18	MONMOUTH	W	90-44	18680
	12/1/18	UNCG	W	78-61	21853
3	12/8/18	vs Seton Hall	Lot	83-84	10244
	12/15/18	UTAH	W	88-61	21922
4	12/22/18	vs #9/10 North Carolina	W	80-72	15124
	12/29/18	at RV/RV Louisville	W	71-58	20882
*	1/5/19	at Alabama	L	75-77	12424
*	1/8/19	TEXAS A&M	W	85-74	22048
*	1/12/19	VANDERBILT	W	56-47	22504
*	1/15/19	at Georgia	W	69-49	10523
*	1/19/19	at #14/12 Auburn	W	82-80	9121
*	1/22/19	#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE	W	76-55	21449
5	1/26/19	#9/10 KANSAS	W	71-63	24387
*	1/29/19	at Vanderbilt	W	87-52	12298
*	2/2/19	at Florida	W	65-54	10763
*	2/5/19	SOUTH CAROLINA	W	76-48	20496
*	2/9/19	at RV/#21 Mississippi State	W	71-67	9019
*	2/12/19	#19/21 LSU	L	71-73	23490
*	2/16/19	#1/1 TENNESSEE	W	86-69	24467
*	2/19/19	at Missouri	W	66-58	10703
*	2/23/19	RV/RV AUBURN	W	80-53	23427
*	2/26/19	ARKANSAS	W	70-66	21998
*	3/2/19	at #7/7 Tennessee	L	52-71	21729
*	3/5/19	at Ole Miss	W	80-76	9500
*	3/9/19	NR/RV FLORIDA	W	66-57	24456
6	3/15/19	vs Alabama	W	73-55	19575
6	3/16/19	vs #8/8 Tennessee	L	78-82	20933

* = Conference game
1 = Champions Classic | Indianapolis (Bankers Life Fieldhouse)
2 = Ohio Valley Hardwood Showcase | Lexington, Ky. (Rupp Arena)
3 = Citi Hoops Classic | New York (Madison Square Garden)
4 = CBS Sports Classic | Chicago (United Center)
5 = SEC/Big 12 Challenge | Lexington, Ky. (Rupp Arena)
6 = SEC Tournament | Nashville, Tenn. (Bridgestone Arena)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 09, 2019)
Conference games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	15-3	8-1	7-2	0-0
CONFERENCE	15-3	8-1	7-2	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds										
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
25	Washington, PJ	18-18	553	30.7	104-197	.528	21-47	.447	61-93	.656	38	80	118	6.6	49	1	29	34	17	15	290	16.1
14	Herro, Tyler	18-18	612	34.0	92-191	.482	32-76	.421	58-59	.983	6	81	87	4.8	22	0	40	29	3	16	274	15.2
03	Johnson, Keldon	18-17	547	30.4	74-177	.418	17-52	.327	47-68	.691	25	80	105	5.8	36	2	34	30	3	12	212	11.8
02	Hagans, Ashton	18-18	576	32.0	61-114	.535	10-29	.345	45-59	.763	8	45	53	2.9	33	0	85	48	0	32	177	9.8
22	Travis, Reid	13-13	356	27.4	36-81	.444	1-10	.100	27-35	.771	32	60	92	7.1	31	0	10	22	10	7	100	7.7
05	Quickley, Immanuel	18-0	297	16.5	25-66	.379	16-42	.381	22-27	.815	0	31	31	1.7	21	0	19	12	0	7	88	4.9
04	Richards, Nick	18-1	231	12.8	24-44	.545	0-0	.000	32-49	.653	32	30	62	3.4	42	1	5	10	23	4	80	4.4
23	Montgomery, EJ	18-4	266	14.8	25-54	.463	2-5	.400	6-10	.600	29	47	76	4.2	38	0	4	11	19	8	58	3.2
13	Baker, Jemarl	18-0	156	8.7	12-38	.316	7-28	.250	3-6	.500	0	9	9	0.5	16	0	10	7	1	2	34	1.9
10	David, Jonny	5-1	6	1.2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										20	20	40					10				
	Total.....	18	3600		453-962	.471	106-289	.367	301-406	.741	190	483	673	37.4	288	4	236	214	76	103	1313	72.9
	Opponents.....	18	3600		401-1018	.394	130-403	.323	194-276	.703	169	375	544	30.2	340	-	194	210	61	100	1126	62.6

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	1313	1126
Points per game	72.9	62.6
Scoring margin	+10.4	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	453-962	401-1018
Field goal pct	.471	.394
3 POINT FG-ATT	106-289	130-403
3-point FG pct	.367	.323
3-pt FG made per game	5.9	7.2
FREE THROWS-ATT	301-406	194-276
Free throw pct	.741	.703
F-Throws made per game	16.7	10.8
REBOUNDS	673	544
Rebounds per game	37.4	30.2
Rebounding margin	+7.2	-
ASSISTS	236	194
Assists per game	13.1	10.8
TURNOVERS	214	210
Turnovers per game	11.9	11.7
Turnover margin	-0.2	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.1	0.9
STEALS	103	100
Steals per game	5.7	5.6
BLOCKS	76	61
Blocks per game	4.2	3.4
ATTENDANCE	204335	106080
Home games-Avg/Game	9-22704	9-11787
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Totals
Kentucky	654	659	1313
Opponents	550	576	1126

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
*	1/5/19	at Alabama	L	75-77	12424
*	1/8/19	TEXAS A&M	W	85-74	22048
*	1/12/19	VANDERBILT	W	56-47	22504
*	1/15/19	at Georgia	W	69-49	10523
*	1/19/19	at #14/12 Auburn	W	82-80	9121
*	1/22/19	#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE	W	76-55	21449
*	1/29/19	at Vanderbilt	W	87-52	12298
*	2/2/19	at Florida	W	65-54	10763
*	2/5/19	SOUTH CAROLINA	W	76-48	20496
*	2/9/19	at RV/#21 Mississippi State	W	71-67	9019
*	2/12/19	#19/21 LSU	L	71-73	23490
*	2/16/19	#1/1 TENNESSEE	W	86-69	24467
*	2/19/19	at Missouri	W	66-58	10703
*	2/23/19	RV/RV AUBURN	W	80-53	23427
*	2/26/19	ARKANSAS	W	70-66	21998
*	3/2/19	at #7/7 Tennessee	L	52-71	21729
*	3/5/19	at Ole Miss	W	80-76	9500
*	3/9/19	NR/RV FLORIDA	W	66-57	24456

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4 = CBS Sports Classic | Chicago (United Center)
5 = SEC/Big 12 Challenge | Lexington, Ky. (Rupp Arena)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 16, 2019)
Postseason

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1

					Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds										
##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
14	Herro, Tyler	2-2	74	37.0	12-23	.522	4-9	.444	2-2	1.000	0	9	9	4.5	1	0	6	4	1	3	30	15.0
25	Washington, PJ	2-2	55	27.5	10-23	.435	1-3	.333	5-7	.714	4	13	17	8.5	4	0	4	3	5	2	26	13.0
03	Johnson, Keldon	2-2	57	28.5	7-17	.412	1-3	.333	4-6	.667	1	8	9	4.5	6	0	1	4	1	4	19	9.5
22	Travis, Reid	2-1	51	25.5	7-12	.583	1-2	.500	4-6	.667	6	7	13	6.5	9	1	0	3	3	1	19	9.5
04	Richards, Nick	2-0	22	11.0	5-6	.833	0-0	.000	5-6	.833	3	4	7	3.5	2	0	0	2	1	0	15	7.5
05	Quickley, Immanuel	2-0	27	13.5	5-8	.625	3-3	1.000	1-2	.500	1	3	4	2.0	3	0	1	1	0	0	14	7.0
13	Baker, Jemarl	1-0	14	14.0	2-3	.667	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	6.0
02	Hagans, Ashton	2-2	67	33.5	5-15	.333	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	3	4	7	3.5	7	0	18	4	0	2	12	6.0
23	Montgomery, EJ	2-1	32	16.0	5-8	.625	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	1	2	3	1.5	5	0	2	1	2	1	10	5.0
10	David, Jonny	1-0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										4	1	5		1							
	Total.....	2	400		58-115	.504	12-26	.462	23-34	.676	23	51	74	37.0	39	1	32	22	13	13	151	75.5
	Opponents.....	2	400		43-112	.384	16-39	.410	35-44	.795	21	40	61	30.5	33	-	21	17	7	13	137	68.5

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	151	137
Points per game	75.5	68.5
Scoring margin	+7.0	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	58-115	43-112
Field goal pct	.504	.384
3 POINT FG-ATT	12-26	16-39
3-point FG pct	.462	.410
3-pt FG made per game	6.0	8.0
FREE THROWS-ATT	23-34	35-44
Free throw pct	.676	.795
F-Throws made per game	11.5	17.5
REBOUNDS	74	61
Rebounds per game	37.0	30.5
Rebounding margin	+6.5	-
ASSISTS	32	21
Assists per game	16.0	10.5
TURNOVERS	22	17
Turnovers per game	11.0	8.5
Turnover margin	-2.5	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.5	1.2
STEALS	13	13
Steals per game	6.5	6.5
BLOCKS	13	7
Blocks per game	6.5	3.5
ATTENDANCE	0	40508
Home games-Avg/Game	0-0	0-0
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	2-20254

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Totals
Kentucky	73	78	151
Opponents	65	72	137

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
6	3/15/19	vs Alabama	W	73-55	19575
6	3/16/19	vs #8/8 Tennessee	L	78-82	20933

* = Conference game
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THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Category Leaders (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Points	G	Pts	Pts/G
Washington, PJ	33	487	14.8
Herro, Tyler	33	470	14.2
Johnson, Keldon	33	443	13.4
Travis, Reid	28	312	11.1
Hagans, Ashton	33	254	7.7
Quickley, Immanuel	33	182	5.5
Richards, Nick	33	134	4.1
Montgomery, EJ	33	129	3.9
Green, Quade	9	72	8.0
Baker, Jemarl	24	49	2.0

Scoring Average	G	Pts	Avg/G
Washington, PJ	33	487	14.8
Herro, Tyler	33	470	14.2
Johnson, Keldon	33	443	13.4
Travis, Reid	28	312	11.1
Green, Quade	9	72	8.0
Hagans, Ashton	33	254	7.7
Quickley, Immanuel	33	182	5.5
Richards, Nick	33	134	4.1
Montgomery, EJ	33	129	3.9
Baker, Jemarl	24	49	2.0
David, Jonny	9	0	0.0

FG Percentage	FG	Att	Pct
Richards, Nick	45	77	.584
Travis, Reid	106	204	.520
Washington, PJ	174	338	.515
Montgomery, EJ	56	117	.479
Hagans, Ashton	90	191	.471
Herro, Tyler	167	356	.469
Johnson, Keldon	150	324	.463
Green, Quade	22	49	.449
Quickley, Immanuel	51	128	.398
Baker, Jemarl	17	51	.333

Field Goal Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Herro, Tyler	33	356	10.8
Washington, PJ	33	338	10.2
Johnson, Keldon	33	324	9.8
Travis, Reid	28	204	7.3
Hagans, Ashton	33	191	5.8

Field Goals Made	G	Made	Made/G
Washington, PJ	33	174	5.3
Herro, Tyler	33	167	5.1
Johnson, Keldon	33	150	4.5
Travis, Reid	28	106	3.8
Hagans, Ashton	33	90	2.7

3-Point Percentage	3FG	Att	Pct
Green, Quade	11	26	.423
Washington, PJ	31	74	.419
Johnson, Keldon	40	103	.388
Herro, Tyler	57	153	.373
Quickley, Immanuel	27	74	.365
Hagans, Ashton	13	44	.295
Baker, Jemarl	11	38	.289
Travis, Reid	7	25	.280
Montgomery, EJ	2	10	.200

3-Point FG Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Herro, Tyler	33	153	4.6
Johnson, Keldon	33	103	3.1
Washington, PJ	33	74	2.2
Quickley, Immanuel	33	74	2.2
Hagans, Ashton	33	44	1.3

3-Point FG Made	G	Made	Made/G
Herro, Tyler	33	57	1.7
Johnson, Keldon	33	40	1.2
Washington, PJ	33	31	0.9
Quickley, Immanuel	33	27	0.8
Hagans, Ashton	33	13	0.4

Free Throw Percent	FG	Att	Pct
Herro, Tyler	79	84	.940
Green, Quade	17	19	.895
Quickley, Immanuel	53	64	.828
Hagans, Ashton	61	82	.744
Travis, Reid	93	128	.727
Johnson, Keldon	103	146	.705
Richards, Nick	44	64	.688
Washington, PJ	108	160	.675
Montgomery, EJ	15	25	.600
Baker, Jemarl	4	8	.500

Free Throw Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Washington, PJ	33	160	4.8
Johnson, Keldon	33	146	4.4
Travis, Reid	28	128	4.6
Herro, Tyler	33	84	2.5
Hagans, Ashton	33	82	2.5

Free Throws Made	G	Made	Made/G
Washington, PJ	33	108	3.3
Johnson, Keldon	33	103	3.1
Travis, Reid	28	93	3.3
Herro, Tyler	33	79	2.4
Hagans, Ashton	33	61	1.8

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Category Leaders (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Rebounds	G	Reb	Reb/G
Washington, PJ	33	249	7.5
Travis, Reid	28	192	6.9
Johnson, Keldon	33	190	5.8
Herro, Tyler	33	149	4.5
Montgomery, EJ	33	131	4.0

Rebound Average	G	Reb	Avg/G
Washington, PJ	33	249	7.5
Travis, Reid	28	192	6.9
Johnson, Keldon	33	190	5.8
Herro, Tyler	33	149	4.5
Montgomery, EJ	33	131	4.0

Offensive Rebounds	G	No.	Avg/G
Washington, PJ	33	76	2.3
Travis, Reid	28	74	2.6
Montgomery, EJ	33	55	1.7
Richards, Nick	33	54	1.6
Johnson, Keldon	33	42	1.3

Defensive Rebounds	G	No.	Avg/G
Washington, PJ	33	173	5.2
Johnson, Keldon	33	148	4.5
Herro, Tyler	33	138	4.2
Travis, Reid	28	118	4.2
Montgomery, EJ	33	76	2.3

Fouls	G	No.	Per/G
Washington, PJ	33	81	2.5
Johnson, Keldon	33	73	2.2
Montgomery, EJ	33	71	2.2
Travis, Reid	28	70	2.5
Richards, Nick	33	70	2.1

Foulouts	G	No.
Washington, PJ	33	3
Johnson, Keldon	33	3
Richards, Nick	33	2
Travis, Reid	28	2

Assists	G	No.	Ast/G
Hagans, Ashton	33	148	4.5
Herro, Tyler	33	77	2.3
Washington, PJ	33	62	1.9
Johnson, Keldon	33	53	1.6
Quickley, Immanuel	33	42	1.3

Steals	G	No.	Stl/G
Hagans, Ashton	33	58	1.8
Herro, Tyler	33	36	1.1
Washington, PJ	33	27	0.8
Johnson, Keldon	33	26	0.8
Quickley, Immanuel	33	14	0.4

Blocked Shots	G	No.	Blk/G
Richards, Nick	33	45	1.4
Washington, PJ	33	40	1.2
Montgomery, EJ	33	36	1.1
Travis, Reid	28	23	0.8
Herro, Tyler	33	11	0.3

Minutes	G	No.	Min/G
Herro, Tyler	33	1063	32.2
Johnson, Keldon	33	1013	30.7
Washington, PJ	33	961	29.1
Hagans, Ashton	33	932	28.2
Travis, Reid	28	771	27.5

Turnovers	G	No.	TO/G
Hagans, Ashton	33	80	2.4
Washington, PJ	33	61	1.8
Johnson, Keldon	33	56	1.7
Herro, Tyler	33	54	1.6
Travis, Reid	28	44	1.6

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Opponent Game-by-Game (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

OPPONENT STATISTICS

				Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds										
Opponent	Date	Score		fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fta	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
vs #4/3 Duke	11/6/18	84-118	L	43-79	.544	12-26	.462	20-29	.690	13	25	38	38.0	26	22	4	3	10	118	118.0
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	11/9/18	71-59	W	23-56	.411	5-16	.313	8-12	.667	7	12	19	28.5	24	13	13	2	7	59	88.5
NORTH DAKOTA	11/14/18	96-58	W	19-48	.396	7-19	.368	13-18	.722	5	10	15	24.0	19	8	20	5	5	58	78.3
VMI	11/18/18	92-82	W	29-62	.468	19-38	.500	5-5	1.000	6	16	22	23.5	26	14	13	1	2	82	79.2
WINTHROP	11/21/18	87-74	W	28-59	.475	13-28	.464	5-8	.625	2	20	22	23.2	21	16	19	0	4	74	78.2
TENNESSEE STATE	11/23/18	77-62	W	22-54	.407	6-16	.375	12-19	.632	10	18	28	24.0	29	11	19	1	5	62	75.5
MONMOUTH	11/28/18	90-44	W	16-58	.276	2-16	.125	10-16	.625	13	12	25	24.1	21	4	16	2	6	44	71.0
UNCG	12/1/18	78-61	W	24-67	.358	7-20	.350	6-10	.600	12	18	30	24.9	17	7	11	3	8	61	69.8
vs Seton Hall	12/8/18	83-84	Lot	27-59	.458	11-26	.423	19-26	.731	10	25	35	26.0	25	15	16	5	8	84	71.3
UTAH	12/15/18	88-61	W	24-54	.444	7-23	.304	6-8	.750	13	18	31	26.5	15	12	18	2	2	61	70.3
vs #9/10 North Carolina	12/22/18	80-72	W	27-63	.429	7-18	.389	11-16	.688	5	28	33	27.1	19	18	18	3	8	72	70.5
at RV/RV Louisville	12/29/18	71-58	W	20-55	.364	5-20	.250	13-19	.684	13	20	33	27.6	12	7	12	2	5	58	69.4
at Alabama	1/5/19	75-77	L	27-59	.458	10-23	.435	13-17	.765	7	33	40	28.5	16	14	17	4	2	77	70.0
TEXAS A&M	1/8/19	85-74	W	27-56	.482	8-17	.471	12-13	.923	8	21	29	28.6	19	8	19	3	8	74	70.3
VANDERBILT	1/12/19	56-47	W	17-47	.362	7-25	.280	6-12	.500	7	14	21	28.1	14	6	12	4	4	47	68.7
at Georgia	1/15/19	69-49	W	17-56	.304	4-27	.148	11-16	.688	12	23	35	28.5	15	12	14	4	5	49	67.5
at #14/12 Auburn	1/19/19	82-80	W	26-56	.464	13-30	.433	15-20	.750	7	19	26	28.4	25	17	11	4	5	80	68.2
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STAT	1/22/19	76-55	W	19-61	.311	3-20	.150	14-18	.778	15	21	36	28.8	18	5	15	6	8	55	67.5
#9/10 KANSAS	1/26/19	71-63	W	23-63	.365	9-23	.391	8-11	.727	9	27	36	29.2	21	9	8	2	4	63	67.3
at Vanderbilt	1/29/19	87-52	W	17-46	.370	9-24	.375	9-18	.500	9	20	29	29.2	19	10	20	3	2	52	66.5
at Florida	2/2/19	65-54	W	22-63	.349	5-19	.263	5-10	.500	12	22	34	29.4	15	7	9	6	7	54	65.9
SOUTH CAROLINA	2/5/19	76-48	W	19-53	.358	5-17	.294	5-14	.357	9	18	27	29.3	19	10	19	2	6	48	65.1
at RV/#21 Mississippi State	2/9/19	71-67	W	23-53	.434	7-16	.438	14-18	.778	8	20	28	29.2	19	7	9	6	7	67	65.2
#19/21 LSU	2/12/19	71-73	L	24-56	.429	6-21	.286	19-22	.864	9	23	32	29.3	17	11	8	4	8	73	65.5
#1/1 TENNESSEE	2/16/19	86-69	W	24-59	.407	7-25	.280	14-18	.778	9	17	26	29.2	25	11	9	1	4	69	65.6
at Missouri	2/19/19	66-58	W	22-59	.373	9-27	.333	5-7	.714	16	18	34	29.4	21	11	12	0	4	58	65.3
RV/RV AUBURN	2/23/19	80-53	W	19-58	.328	8-27	.296	7-11	.636	8	16	24	29.2	12	8	9	1	6	53	64.9
ARKANSAS	2/26/19	70-66	W	23-61	.377	10-20	.500	10-15	.667	10	17	27	29.1	23	14	7	3	7	66	64.9
at #7/7 Tennessee	3/2/19	52-71	L	27-62	.435	8-22	.364	9-14	.643	8	28	36	29.3	22	15	5	5	8	71	65.1
at Ole Miss	3/5/19	80-76	W	24-59	.407	8-25	.320	20-22	.909	10	27	37	29.6	20	14	9	3	4	76	65.5
NR/RV FLORIDA	3/9/19	66-57	W	24-54	.444	3-18	.167	6-11	.545	5	18	23	29.4	21	14	6	2	5	57	65.2
vs Alabama	3/15/19	73-55	W	17-56	.304	6-18	.333	15-19	.789	11	21	32	29.5	15	8	11	3	7	55	64.9
vs #8/8 Tennessee	3/16/19	78-82	L	26-56	.464	10-21	.476	20-25	.800	10	19	29	29.5	18	13	6	4	6	82	65.4
Opponents		2159		769-1907	.403	256-731	.350	365-517	.706	308	664	972	29.5	648	371	414	99	187	2159	65.4
Kentucky		2532		878-1835	.478	199-547	.364	577-780	.740	383	885	1268	38.4	539	457	417	167	199	2532	76.7

Games played: 33
Points/game: 65.4
FG Pct: 40.3
3FG Pct: 35.0
FT Pct: 70.6

Rebounds/game: 29.5
Assists/game: 11.2
Turnovers/game: 12.5
Assist/turnover ratio: 0.9
Steals/game: 5.7
Blocks/game: 3.0

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Team High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Kentucky - TEAM GAME HIGHS

POINTS	96		NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
	92		VMI (11/18/18)
	90		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	88		UTAH (12/15/18)
	87		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	87		WINTHROP (11/21/18)
FIELD GOALS MADE	34		UTAH (12/15/18)
	33		NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	65		at Alabama (1/5/19)
	65		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.586	(34-58)	UTAH (12/15/18)
	.566	(30-53)	MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	12		UTAH (12/15/18)
	11		RV/RV AUBURN (2/23/19)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	26		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	24		RV/RV AUBURN (2/23/19)
	24		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.588	(10-17)	at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	.571	(12-21)	UTAH (12/15/18)
FREE THROWS MADE	29		VMI (11/18/18)
	28		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	41		TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
	38		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.913	(21-23)	TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
	.870	(20-23)	MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
REBOUNDS	50		SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
	49		#9/10 KANSAS (1/26/19)
ASSISTS	24		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	20		WINTHROP (11/21/18)
STEALS	12		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	12		NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
BLOCKED SHOTS	11		vs Alabama (3/15/19)
	8		#9/10 KANSAS (1/26/19)
	8		#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
	8		at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	8		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
TURNOVERS	19		WINTHROP (11/21/18)
	19		SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
FOULS	25		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	21		at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	21		vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Opponent - GAME HIGHS

POINTS	118		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	84		vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	82		vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	82		VMI (11/18/18)
	80		at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
FIELD GOALS MADE	43		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	29		VMI (11/18/18)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	79		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	67		UNCG (12/1/18)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.544	(43-79)	vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	.482	(27-56)	TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	19		VMI (11/18/18)
	13		at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	13		WINTHROP (11/21/18)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	38		VMI (11/18/18)
	30		at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.500	(19-38)	VMI (11/18/18)
	.500	(10-20)	ARKANSAS (2/26/19)
FREE THROWS MADE	20		vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	20		at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	20		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	29		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	26		vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	1.000	(5-5)	VMI (11/18/18)
	.923	(12-13)	TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
REBOUNDS	40		at Alabama (1/5/19)
	38		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
ASSISTS	22		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	18		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
STEALS	10		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	8		at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	8		#19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
	8		#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
	8		TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
	8		vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	8		vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	8		UNCG (12/1/18)
BLOCKED SHOTS	6		at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
	6		at Florida (2/2/19)
	6		#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
TURNOVERS	20		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	20		NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
FOULS	29		TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
	26		VMI (11/18/18)
	26		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Kentucky - GAME LOWS

POINTS	52		at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	56		VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
	65		at Florida (2/2/19)
	66		at Missouri (2/19/19)
	66		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
FIELD GOALS MADE	14		at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	19		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	42		at Missouri (2/19/19)
	42		ARKANSAS (2/26/19)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.318	(14-44)	at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	.391	(25-64)	#9/10 KANSAS (1/26/19)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	2		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
	4		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	4		SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
	4		TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
	4		VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
	4		at Georgia (1/15/19)
	4		#9/10 KANSAS (1/26/19)
	4		at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	7		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
	9		at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.222	(4-18)	#9/10 KANSAS (1/26/19)
	.235	(4-17)	vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
FREE THROWS MADE	7		at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	8		UTAH (12/15/18)
	8		VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	11		at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	11		at Georgia (1/15/19)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.571	(8-14)	VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
	.588	(10-17)	at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
REBOUNDS	23		UTAH (12/15/18)
	28		TEXAS A&M (1/8/19)
	28		at Missouri (2/19/19)
ASSISTS	8		TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
	9		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
STEALS	1		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	3		vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	3		#19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
	3		at Missouri (2/19/19)
	3		at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	3		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
BLOCKED SHOTS	1		at Alabama (1/5/19)
	1		SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
	1		#19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
TURNOVERS	6		UTAH (12/15/18)
	7		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	7		at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
FOULS	10		UTAH (12/15/18)
	10		RV/RV AUBURN (2/23/19)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Opponent - GAME LOWS

POINTS	44		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	47		VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
	48		SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
	49		at Georgia (1/15/19)
	52		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
FIELD GOALS MADE	16		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	17		VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
	17		at Georgia (1/15/19)
	17		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	17		vs Alabama (3/15/19)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	46		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	47		VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.276	(16-58)	MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	.304	(17-56)	at Georgia (1/15/19)
	.304	(17-56)	vs Alabama (3/15/19)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	2		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	3		#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
	3		NR/RV FLORIDA (3/9/19)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	16		SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
	16		TENNESSEE STATE (11/23/18)
	16		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	16		at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.125	(2-16)	MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	.148	(4-27)	at Georgia (1/15/19)
FREE THROWS MADE	5		VMI (11/18/18)
	5		WINTHROP (11/21/18)
	5		at Florida (2/2/19)
	5		SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
	5		at Missouri (2/19/19)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	5		VMI (11/18/18)
	7		at Missouri (2/19/19)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.357	(5-14)	SOUTH CAROLINA (2/5/19)
	.500	(5-10)	at Florida (2/2/19)
	.500	(6-12)	VANDERBILT (1/12/19)
	.500	(9-18)	at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
REBOUNDS	15		NORTH DAKOTA (11/14/18)
	19		SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (11/9/18)
ASSISTS	4		MONMOUTH (11/28/18)
	5		#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE (1/22/19)
STEALS	2		VMI (11/18/18)
	2		UTAH (12/15/18)
	2		at Alabama (1/5/19)
	2		at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
BLOCKED SHOTS	0		WINTHROP (11/21/18)
	0		at Missouri (2/19/19)
TURNOVERS	4		vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	5		at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
FOULS	12		at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	12		RV/RV AUBURN (2/23/19)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Player High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

Kentucky - INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Points	29		Herro, Tyler vs Arkansas (2/26/19)
	29		Washington, PJ vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	27		Johnson, Keldon vs Tennessee State (11/23/18)
	26		Washington, PJ at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	25		Washington, PJ vs North Dakota (11/14/18)
Field Goals Made	10		Herro, Tyler at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	9		Johnson, Keldon at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	9		Herro, Tyler vs Arkansas (2/26/19)
	9		Washington, PJ vs RV/RV Auburn (2/23/19)
	9		Washington, PJ vs #1/1 Tennessee (2/16/19)
	9		Washington, PJ at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
	9		Washington, PJ at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	9		Washington, PJ vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	9		Hagans, Ashton at Georgia (1/15/19)
	9		Washington, PJ vs North Dakota (11/14/18)
Field Goal Att.	18		Johnson, Keldon at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	18		Hagans, Ashton at Georgia (1/15/19)
FG Pct (min 5 made)	.900	(9-10)	Herro, Tyler vs Arkansas (2/26/19)
	.889	(8-9)	Johnson, Keldon vs Utah (12/15/18)
3-Point FG Made	6		Johnson, Keldon vs Utah (12/15/18)
	5		Herro, Tyler vs Arkansas (2/26/19)
	5		Washington, PJ vs RV/RV Auburn (2/23/19)
3-Point FG Att.	8		Washington, PJ vs RV/RV Auburn (2/23/19)
	8		Herro, Tyler vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	8		Herro, Tyler vs Winthrop (11/21/18)
3-Pt FG Pct (min 2 made)	1.000	(3-3)	Quickley, Immanuel vs Alabama (3/15/19)
	1.000	(3-3)	Washington, PJ at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
	1.000	(3-3)	Washington, PJ at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	1.000	(3-3)	Herro, Tyler vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	1.000	(2-2)	Baker, Jemarl at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	1.000	(2-2)	Baker, Jemarl at Georgia (1/15/19)
	1.000	(2-2)	Quickley, Immanuel vs Texas A&M (1/8/19)
	1.000	(2-2)	Baker, Jemarl vs Utah (12/15/18)
Free Throws Made	13		Johnson, Keldon vs Tennessee State (11/23/18)
	12		Washington, PJ vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Free Throw Att.	18		Johnson, Keldon vs Tennessee State (11/23/18)
	13		Washington, PJ at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	13		Washington, PJ vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	13		Travis, Reid vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
FT Pct (min 3 made)	1.000	(8-8)	Herro, Tyler at Missouri (2/19/19)
	1.000	(6-6)	Herro, Tyler vs Arkansas (2/26/19)
	1.000	(6-6)	Quickley, Immanuel vs VMI (11/18/18)
	1.000	(6-6)	Quickley, Immanuel vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	1.000	(5-5)	Herro, Tyler vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	1.000	(5-5)	Travis, Reid at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	1.000	(5-5)	Herro, Tyler at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	1.000	(5-5)	Herro, Tyler vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Washington, PJ vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Herro, Tyler vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Quickley, Immanuel vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Hagans, Ashton at Missouri (2/19/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Johnson, Keldon at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Herro, Tyler at Florida (2/2/19)

	1.000	(4-4)	Herro, Tyler at Georgia (1/15/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Herro, Tyler vs Texas A&M (1/8/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Johnson, Keldon vs Texas A&M (1/8/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Johnson, Keldon at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Green, Quade vs Winthrop (11/21/18)
	1.000	(4-4)	Green, Quade vs VMI (11/18/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Washington, PJ vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	1.000	(3-3)	Johnson, Keldon at Missouri (2/19/19)
	1.000	(3-3)	Hagans, Ashton vs UNCG (12/1/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Herro, Tyler vs North Dakota (11/14/18)
Rebounds	19		Richards, Nick vs Southern Illinois (11/9/18)
	18		Washington, PJ vs VMI (11/18/18)
Assists	12		Hagans, Ashton vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	9		Hagans, Ashton at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
	9		Hagans, Ashton vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
Steals	8		Hagans, Ashton vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	5		Hagans, Ashton vs Texas A&M (1/8/19)
	5		Herro, Tyler vs Monmouth (11/28/18)
	5		Herro, Tyler vs North Dakota (11/14/18)
Blocked Shots	5		Richards, Nick vs #9/10 Kansas (1/26/19)
	4		Washington, PJ vs Alabama (3/15/19)
	4		Montgomery, EJ at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	4		Richards, Nick at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	4		Washington, PJ vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	4		Washington, PJ at RV/RV Louisville (12/29/18)
	4		Washington, PJ vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Turnovers	6		Hagans, Ashton vs South Carolina (2/5/19)
	5		Herro, Tyler at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	5		Hagans, Ashton vs Vanderbilt (1/12/19)
	5		Travis, Reid at Alabama (1/5/19)
	5		Hagans, Ashton vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	5		Washington, PJ vs Southern Illinois (11/9/18)
Fouls	5		Travis, Reid vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	5		Richards, Nick at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	5		Washington, PJ at RV/#21 Mississippi State (2/9/19)
	5		Johnson, Keldon vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	5		Johnson, Keldon vs Vanderbilt (1/12/19)
	5		Johnson, Keldon vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	5		Travis, Reid vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	5		Washington, PJ vs Monmouth (11/28/18)
	5		Richards, Nick vs North Dakota (11/14/18)
	5		Washington, PJ vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
Minutes	43		Johnson, Keldon vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	39		Herro, Tyler vs #19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
	38		Herro, Tyler vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	38		Hagans, Ashton vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	38		Herro, Tyler vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	38		Washington, PJ vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	38		Johnson, Keldon at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	38		Herro, Tyler at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	38		Herro, Tyler vs #9/10 Kansas (1/26/19)
	38		Travis, Reid vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Kentucky Opponent High/Low Analysis (as of Mar 16, 2019)
All games

OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Points	35		Parham, Bubba vs VMI (11/18/18)
	33		R.J. Barrett vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	28		BROWN, Bryce at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	28		POWELL,MYLES vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	28		Zion Williamson vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
Field Goals Made	13		R.J. Barrett vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	11		Bone, Jordan at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	11		Parham, Bubba vs VMI (11/18/18)
	11		Zion Williamson vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
Field Goal Att.	26		R.J. Barrett vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	20		Parham, Bubba vs VMI (11/18/18)
FG Pct (min 5 made)	1.000	(5-5)	Williams, Emmitt vs #19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
	.889	(8-9)	Johnson, Keyontae vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	.889	(8-9)	BROWN, Bryce at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
3-Point FG Made	10		Parham, Bubba vs VMI (11/18/18)
	6		BROWN, Bryce at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	6		Mack, Tevin at Alabama (1/5/19)
	6		POWELL,MYLES vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
3-Point FG Att.	16		Parham, Bubba vs VMI (11/18/18)
	11		POWELL,MYLES vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
3-Pt FG Pct (min 2 made)	1.000	(5-5)	Bone, Jordan at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	1.000	(2-2)	Williams, Grant vs #1/1 Tennessee (2/16/19)
	1.000	(2-2)	Davis, Tripp vs Tennessee State (11/23/18)
	1.000	(2-2)	Zunic, Kyle vs Winthrop (11/21/18)
	1.000	(2-2)	Falden, Charles vs Winthrop (11/21/18)
Free Throws Made	9		Williams, Grant vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	8		Bone, Jordan vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	8		Hall, Donta vs Alabama (3/15/19)
	8		Tyree,Breein at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	8		Williams, Grant at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	8		Williams, Grant vs #1/1 Tennessee (2/16/19)
	8		Waters, Tremont vs #19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
Free Throw Att.	11		Williams, Grant vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	11		Williams, Grant at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
FT Pct (min 3 made)	1.000	(8-8)	Bone, Jordan vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	1.000	(8-8)	Hall, Donta vs Alabama (3/15/19)
	1.000	(8-8)	Waters, Tremont vs #19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
	1.000	(7-7)	Cam Reddish vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
	1.000	(6-6)	Stevens, Bruce at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	1.000	(6-6)	BROWN, Bryce at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	1.000	(6-6)	Ingram, Dazon at Alabama (1/5/19)
	1.000	(6-6)	CALE,MYLES vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	1.000	(5-5)	Davis,Terence at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Sills, Desi vs Arkansas (2/26/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Smart, Javonte vs #19/21 LSU (2/12/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Lawson, Dedric vs #9/10 Kansas (1/26/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Weatherspoon, Nick vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Chandler, Jay Jay vs Texas A&M (1/8/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	Mekowulu, Christian vs Texas A&M (1/8/19)
	1.000	(4-4)	MCKNIGHT,QUINCY vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Weatherspoon, Q vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	1.000	(3-3)	Seventh Woods vs #9/10 North Carolina (12/22/18)
	1.000	(3-3)	Falden, Charles vs Winthrop (11/21/18)

	1.000	(3-3)	Parham, Bubba vs VMI (11/18/18)
Rebounds	15		Lawson, Dedric vs #9/10 Kansas (1/26/19)
	13		Woodard, Robert vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
Assists	8		Johnson, Chase vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	7		Tre Jones vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
Steals	4		MCKNIGHT,QUINCY vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	4		Cam Reddish vs #4/3 Duke (11/6/18)
Blocked Shots	3		Hayes, Kevarrius at Florida (2/2/19)
	3		Ado, Abdul vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	3		NZEI,MICHAEL vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Turnovers	7		Pickett, Adam vs Winthrop (11/21/18)
	6		MCKNIGHT,QUINCY vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
Fouls	5		Alexander, Kyle vs #8/8 Tennessee (3/16/19)
	5		Locke, Noah vs NR/RV Florida (3/9/19)
	5		Hinson,Blake at Ole Miss (3/5/19)
	5		Alexander, Kyle at #7/7 Tennessee (3/2/19)
	5		PICKETT, Javon at Missouri (2/19/19)
	5		Schofield, Admiral vs #1/1 Tennessee (2/16/19)
	5		Alexander, Kyle vs #1/1 Tennessee (2/16/19)
	5		Frink, Alanzo vs South Carolina (2/5/19)
	5		Wetzell, Yanni at Vanderbilt (1/29/19)
	5		Dotson, Devon vs #9/10 Kansas (1/26/19)
	5		Perry, Reggie vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	5		Holman, Aric vs #22/22 Mississippi State (1/22/19)
	5		MCLEMORE, Anfernee at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	5		SPENCER, Horace at #14/12 Auburn (1/19/19)
	5		MAMUKELASHVILI,S vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	5		RHODEN,JARED vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	5		NZEI,MICHAEL vs Seton Hall (12/8/18)
	5		Dickey, James vs UNCG (12/1/18)
	5		Hamilton, Eric vs UNCG (12/1/18)
	5		Traore, Mustapha vs Monmouth (11/28/18)
	5		Ukaegbu, Jermaine vs Winthrop (11/21/18)
	5		Stephens, Jake vs VMI (11/18/18)
	5		Fletcher, Armon vs Southern Illinois (11/9/18)

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM

Kentucky Team Game-by-Game Comparison (as of Mar 16, 2019)

All games

Opponent	1st	2nd	Score	Mar	Total FG	FG Pct	3-Pointers	3FG Pct	Free Throws	FT Pct	Rebounds		Assist	T/Over	Block	Steal	Fouls
#4/3 Duke	42/59	42/59	84-118	(34)	26-59/43-79	.441/.544	4-17/12-26	.235/.462	28-38/20-29	.737/.690	37/38	(1)	17/22	15/4	5/3	1/10	25/26
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	31/28	40/31	71-59	+12	24-54/23-56	.444/.411	4-14/5-16	.286/.313	19-27/8-12	.704/.667	48/19	+29	11/13	19/13	6/2	5/7	15/24
NORTH DAKOTA	46/25	50/33	96-58	+38	33-62/19-48	.532/.396	6-13/7-19	.462/.368	24-30/13-18	.800/.722	45/15	+30	15/8	13/20	5/5	12/5	15/19
VMI	48/34	44/48	92-82	+10	29-59/29-62	.492/.468	5-14/19-38	.357/.500	29-35/5-5	.829/1000	43/22	+21	15/14	11/13	6/1	6/2	12/26
WINTHROP	51/37	36/37	87-74	+13	31-55/28-59	.564/.475	7-18/13-28	.389/.464	18-24/5-8	.750/.625	37/22	+15	20/16	19/19	6/0	8/4	16/21
TENNESSEE STATE	35/27	42/35	77-62	+15	23-52/22-54	.442/.407	4-15/6-16	.267/.375	27-41/12-19	.659/.632	37/28	+9	8/11	14/19	5/1	4/5	14/29
MONMOUTH	44/22	46/22	90-44	+46	30-53/16-58	.566/.276	10-24/2-16	.417/.125	20-23/10-16	.870/.625	40/25	+15	15/4	14/16	5/2	8/6	16/21
UNCG	37/40	41/21	78-61	+17	28-58/24-67	.483/.358	5-12/7-20	.417/.350	17-24/6-10	.708/.600	46/30	+16	12/7	17/11	4/3	5/8	15/17
Seton Hall	31/25	39/45	83-84	(1)	27-62/27-59	.435/.458	5-20/11-26	.250/.423	24-30/19-26	.800/.731	38/35	+3	14/15	15/16	7/5	3/8	21/25
UTAH	41/27	47/34	88-61	+27	34-58/24-54	.586/.444	12-21/7-23	.571/.304	8-12/6-8	.667/.750	23/31	(8)	13/12	6/18	5/2	6/2	10/15
#9/10 North Carolina	40/31	40/41	80-72	+8	28-65/27-63	.431/.429	9-26/7-18	.346/.389	15-22/11-16	.682/.688	44/33	+11	24/18	18/18	8/3	12/8	19/19
RV/RV Louisville	35/27	36/31	71-58	+13	29-57/20-55	.509/.364	6-20/5-20	.300/.250	7-11/13-19	.636/.684	34/33	+1	11/7	9/12	8/2	9/5	21/12
Alabama	40/38	35/39	75-77	(2)	28-65/27-59	.431/.458	5-18/10-23	.278/.435	14-17/13-17	.824/.765	32/40	(8)	14/14	11/17	1/4	7/2	15/16
TEXAS A&M	46/34	39/40	85-74	+11	29-56/27-56	.518/.482	6-18/8-17	.333/.471	21-23/12-13	.913/.923	28/29	(1)	16/8	12/19	5/3	11/8	13/19
VANDERBILT	28/30	28/17	56-47	+9	22-44/17-47	.500/.362	4-16/7-25	.250/.280	8-14/6-12	.571/.500	38/21	+17	10/6	15/12	5/4	5/4	14/14
Georgia	35/31	34/18	69-49	+20	28-64/17-56	.438/.304	4-11/4-27	.364/.148	9-11/11-16	.818/.688	43/35	+8	14/12	10/14	4/4	8/5	14/15
#14/12 Auburn	35/27	47/53	82-80	+2	26-48/26-56	.542/.464	6-15/13-30	.400/.433	24-33/15-20	.727/.750	33/26	+7	14/17	13/11	2/4	7/5	20/25
#22/22 MISSISSIPPI STATE	34/26	42/29	76-55	+21	26-59/19-61	.441/.311	8-16/3-20	.500/.150	16-22/14-18	.727/.778	43/36	+7	14/5	16/15	8/6	8/8	17/18
#9/10 KANSAS	30/33	41/30	71-63	+8	25-64/23-63	.391/.365	4-18/9-23	.222/.391	17-23/8-11	.739/.727	49/36	+13	14/9	11/8	8/2	4/4	13/21
Vanderbilt	45/15	42/37	87-52	+35	30-54/17-46	.556/.370	10-17/9-24	.588/.375	17-23/9-18	.739/.500	29/29	-	18/10	7/20	6/3	7/2	20/19
Florida	29/33	36/21	65-54	+11	23-56/22-63	.411/.349	6-21/5-19	.286/.263	13-16/5-10	.813/.500	46/34	+12	13/7	12/9	2/6	4/7	12/15
SOUTH CAROLINA	39/28	37/20	76-48	+28	25-61/19-53	.410/.358	5-16/5-17	.313/.294	21-27/5-14	.778/.357	50/27	+23	11/10	14/19	1/2	11/6	17/19
RV/#21 Mississippi State	40/25	31/42	71-67	+4	27-57/23-53	.474/.434	7-18/7-16	.389/.438	10-17/14-18	.588/.778	35/28	+7	13/7	9/9	4/6	4/7	18/19
#19/21 LSU	40/32	31/41	71-73	(2)	25-60/24-56	.417/.429	5-19/6-21	.263/.286	16-23/19-22	.696/.864	39/32	+7	14/11	9/8	1/4	3/8	17/17
#1/1 TENNESSEE	37/31	49/38	86-69	+17	29-53/24-59	.547/.407	5-13/7-25	.385/.280	23-33/14-18	.697/.778	39/26	+13	14/11	11/9	6/1	6/4	15/25
Missouri	41/23	25/35	66-58	+8	20-42/22-59	.476/.373	7-19/9-27	.368/.333	19-22/5-7	.864/.714	28/34	(6)	10/11	14/12	3/0	3/4	16/21
RV/RV AUBURN	45/31	35/22	80-53	+27	30-55/19-58	.545/.328	11-24/8-27	.458/.296	9-12/7-11	.750/.636	43/24	+19	15/8	11/9	7/1	5/6	10/12
ARKANSAS	28/39	42/27	70-66	+4	21-42/23-61	.500/.377	6-13/10-20	.462/.500	22-32/10-15	.688/.667	40/27	+13	12/14	15/7	7/3	4/7	19/23
#7/7 Tennessee	24/37	28/34	52-71	(19)	14-44/27-62	.318/.435	5-19/8-22	.263/.364	19-29/9-14	.655/.643	39/36	+3	11/15	17/5	5/5	3/8	16/22
Ole Miss	38/39	42/37	80-76	+4	31-56/24-59	.554/.407	4-9/8-25	.444/.320	14-20/20-22	.700/.909	29/37	(8)	14/14	7/9	7/3	4/4	18/20
NR/RV FLORIDA	30/31	36/26	66-57	+9	19-46/24-54	.413/.444	2-7/3-18	.286/.167	26-32/6-11	.813/.545	39/23	+16	9/14	11/6	2/2	3/5	17/21
Alabama	39/29	34/26	73-55	+18	28-59/17-56	.475/.304	7-15/6-18	.467/.333	10-15/15-19	.667/.789	42/32	+10	15/8	11/11	11/3	8/7	19/15
#8/8 Tennessee	34/36	44/46	78-82	(4)	30-56/26-56	.536/.464	5-11/10-21	.455/.476	13-19/20-25	.684/.800	32/29	+3	17/13	11/6	2/4	5/6	20/18

Note: Game totals are displayed in the format TEAM/OPPONENT for each category

KENTUCKY
22
KENTUCKY
3
KENTUCKY
2
KENTUCKY
25
NCAA
MARCH
MADNESS
2018-19 SEASON IN CLIPS

Kentucky basketball players prove their dedication in the Bahamas

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Aug. 12

In some seasons past it has taken months for John Calipari to convey the importance of extra individual work to his young teams.

Not this year. His current players do not even need shoes to head to the gym.

"It's a lot different," sophomore forward PJ Washington said. "You can tell with these guys they're a lot more dedicated than we were last year. They want it a lot more. We've been in the gym after games here (in the Bahamas). So, everybody just wants it more. That's what special teams do."

Washington's freshman team was one of those UK squads Calipari seemingly had to coax all season long to put in the extra work. Former Wildcat Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was the exception to that worrisome trend, and Calipari made sure to note the importance of Gilgeous-Alexander's extra work in his maturation from under-the-radar recruit to NBA draft lottery pick whenever possible as an example to his other players.

The message appears to have taken hold with UK's returning players.

Sophomore guard Quade Green was walked across the Atlantis resort for a midnight shooting session after a 1-for-11 showing in the Wildcats' Bahamas opener.

After game No. 2, Washington joined Green in the gym hours after a win over San Lorenzo de Almagro was finished. Freshmen Immanuel Quickley, Tyler Herro and Keldon Johnson were there as well.

Johnson was one of the first two players to show up for the late-night session even though he was locked out of the room where UK kept its players' basketball shoes. He shot in his socks for close to 30 minutes while he waited for a teammate to bring him shoes.

"Why wouldn't I want to go to the gym if my teammates are there and they're encouraging me?" Johnson said. "They've always got my back, like, 'Yeah, let's get some shots up, let's go work.' Then it's always fun. When I've got my teammates with me it's always enjoyable to go to the gym."

That extra work paid off in game No. 3, a 100-64 blowout win over Serbian professional team Mega Bemax, the most highly-touted opponent on Kentucky's Bahamas tour.

After the win, assistant coach Joel Justus acknowledged the team had been zeroed in on the Mega Bemax game since pre-Bahamas practices started. Kentucky players were made aware the franchise had produced nine NBA draft picks since 2014 and included multiple potential NBA draft prospects on its current roster.

They responded by jumping out to a 25-point lead in the first half, building that lead to as many as 39 points and refusing to let their foot off the pedal until hitting the century mark in points just before the final buzzer.

"That's who we are," Justus said. "We're a team that's going to come in waves. We've got to keep guys healthy, we've got to keep pushing in practice, we've got to make each other better, but I tell you that's why they came here. Each one of those guys in that locker room knew they were going to come to a place where there was going to be daily competition, that they were going to be pushed by Coach Cal, by the rest of us as a staff, but most importantly they were going to be pushed by each other."

Nothing about Kentucky's performance in the Bahamas has slowed the hype for a team almost certain to enter the season ranked No. 1 or 2 in most polls.

The 10 practices and four exhibition games have handed the team a valuable head start on a season that starts with a possible top-five matchup against Duke in November. Considering UK coach John Calipari warned his team might lose as many as three of the four Bahamas games before the trip, fans' dreams of a Final Four berth and possible national championship will only grow from here.

There has been little effort by players or coaches to dampen expectations either.

"For the four years I've been here, four-plus years, I haven't seen a more competitive group," UK assistant Tony Barbee said. "They compete in practice against each other like almost to the point of fighting. But it's a good competitive. That's just their spirit. They get along off the floor, but when they have a chance to compete against somebody they're playing to win."

"I think the work ethic of this group has been special," UK associate head coach Kenny Payne said. "Those guys want to be great basketball players. They live in the gym. Immanuel Quickley, Tyler Herro, Keldon Johnson, EJ Montgomery, Ashton Hagans, those five freshmen have come in here and said, 'I want to be better.' They live in the gym and they have a swag about them. But their swag is not arrogance because they're willing to work."

Calipari's best Kentucky teams frequently respond to challenges with blowout wins as evidenced by the 2014-15 squad's 78-39 NCAA Tournament win over West Virginia or the 83-44 win over UCLA earlier that season.

For all its success developing NBA talent, Mega Bemax is probably still not the same caliber opponent as the teams UK will compete against for a national title this season, but the Kentucky's aggressive response to the potential threat might be just as important as the actual degree of difficulty.

"I definitely think that's mindset," Johnson said. "We're going out there to take people's hearts."

The most encouraging development in UK basketball's Bahamas trip

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Aug. 14

Long after the outcome of the final game of Kentucky's Bahamas exhibition tour was decided, a telling moment transpired on the court.

Freshman point guard Ashton Hagans contested what seemed to be an easy rebound for Team Toronto. He did not come down with the ball, but even that failure was not enough to deter him as he picked up full-court pressure in an attempt to intercept the outlet pass.

The possession was essentially meaningless with Kentucky already up by more than 20.

But the message was clear.

"I told them when we get back (to school) my focus is going to be on making us the best defensive team," UK coach John Calipari said. "It starts with your point guards, and these guys can guard the ball."

Calipari and his assistant coaches spent little time coaching defense in the 10 practices leading up to the Bahamas trip.

In the opener against the Bahamas national team, that lack of work showed.

"We were awful the first night," UK assistant Joel Justus said. "We had 24 straight-line drives. We showed each one of them that next day in film. My goodness, we've been better since then and our guys have taken tremendous pride in that."

During the trip and the final few practices before it, Calipari began to briefly introduce defensive philosophies to lay the groundwork for when official practices start in the fall, but he said he did not expect the results to pay off during the exhibition series.

So even he was impressed when the freshmen began using the rotations Calipari had only begun to teach.

"It's like, 'Wow,'" Calipari said. "Because most of the stuff was higher level than us, and it was this is the next step of what you're doing."

Kentucky held its four Bahamas opponents to 35.4 percent from the field and 20 percent from 3-point range. The Wildcats averaged 7.8 steals per game, more than

two more per game than last season's team.

Hagans accounted for eight of the team's 31 steals.

"Bringing the energy on defense, having my teammates involved I know I can get them the easy play," he said. "I can steal a quick basket and get back on defense to try to get another basket and get the outlet ahead, things like that."

Hagans and his classmates are not the first freshmen to embrace defense early at Kentucky, but most newcomers need time to find the performance and effort on that side of the ball Calipari demands.

Not this group.

"They play the game with a joy that just bleeds into all aspects of their games," UK assistant Tony Barbee said. "I don't know if they concentrated on defense more before they got here in their games, but it's just the joy they have playing in their games and it's not just scoring the ball."

The freshmen's work ethic has already set the tone for the rest of the team, Calipari said.

"They play with a high motor," he said. "If there's a guy or two out there that aren't, it's obvious. You all see it. Like, why isn't he playing as hard as those guys? We haven't had that. This is a group that's driving each other."

Calipari has done his best to pump the brakes on the overwhelming hype surrounding his team, which will likely enter the season ranked No. 1 or 2 in most polls, after the Bahamas trip, but even he had a hard time coming up with reasons to be cautious.

And there is no reason to be more excited about this team than the defensive intensity it showed in the Bahamas, even after the score of each game was out of hand.

If the defense shows this much promise with so little work, imagine what it could be by March.

"I think because of the quickness and the length of our guards — because that's where you defense starts on the ball — that it can be one of the best ones that we've had since I've been here, a part of the Kentucky program," said Barbee, who is coaching his fifth season at UK. "But it's still too early. … When you look at the qualities of this team, our quickness and anticipation, physical, athletic bigs, long wings — 6-6, 6-7 on the wing — we've got all the attributes to be a fantastic defensive team."

Sorry Cal, the hype is here to stay.

Why Keldon Johnson may be key to Cats being an elite team

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Sept. 18

The Kentucky men's basketball team is going to be really good this season.

That's not exactly breaking news for a squad ranked No. 1 or No. 2 in most "early top 25s," but after dominating four teams of professional players in a preseason exhibition tour of the Bahamas the standard for success has been set as high as ever.

Success for Kentucky this season will mean a Final Four at the least, and there's an argument to be made for national title or bust.

The 2011 and 2014 Kentucky teams proved John Calipari is capable of turning regular season struggles into a Final Four run, but with the combination of experience and freshman talent that has characterized Calipari's best UK squads this team will be expected to dominate throughout the season like the 2010, 2012 and 2015 squads, which combined for just six losses between them.

But there is at least one reason to wonder if that standard is too high: the lack of a surefire superstar.

The 2010, 2012 and 2015 teams each boasted the No. 1 pick and one other top-10 selection in the subsequent NBA draft. Kentucky's earliest selection in the latest ESPN mock draft is freshman Keldon Johnson at No. 8 overall. PJ Washington (No. 21) is the only other UK player projected to go in the first round.

The smart money is on at least a couple of other Wildcats working their way into the first round by the end of the season, but Johnson appears to be the team's best chance to develop into a top-five pick.

"If there's five better players than him in the country you've got to tell me who they are," UK coach John Calipari said after the final Bahamas exhibition. "I don't care what you read anywhere. I've done this a long time, and I know who's who. If there are five better than him, tell me who they are. This kid is legitimate 6-5, can play point guard, two, three and four. Shoots it good enough, tough, will fight you, in the gym at midnight, loves the game, high motor, high energy."

Calipari was actually one of the last coaches to offer Johnson a scholarship even after the 6-foot-6 wing player took multiple unofficial visits to Lexington during his junior season.

Instead of picking one of the numerous other top-level programs that had already offered him, Johnson waited to convince Calipari he was worthy of the Kentucky offer.

"He said, 'Because I knew. I knew I was good enough, and I knew what I would do here,'" Calipari recounted. "I said, 'Well, you're doing it. You're doing it.' … Your motor and your enthusiasm is going to drive us."

It may have taken Calipari awhile to fully buy into Johnson's potential, but he has since become his biggest advocate.

In explaining why sophomore Quade Green needed to focus on playing off the ball, Calipari painted Johnson in the role he has frequently described for superstars like LeBron James and James Harden, who frequently play with the ball in their hands despite not being considered traditional point guards.

"If you're on a team with Keldon in the NBA, Keldon's the point guard," Calipari said. "You ain't playing point guard."

Of course, the better Kentucky plays as a team this season and Johnson plays individually, the more likely it is he works his way up NBA draft boards.

Five of the seven players projected to be selected ahead of Johnson on ESPN's mock draft are listed as wing players. He will have a chance to prove himself head-to-head against several of those players, including Duke's R.J. Barrett (No. 1) and Cameron Reddish (No. 5) and North Carolina's Nassir Little (No. 2).

His infectious personality and over-the-top energy will likely make Johnson the center of attention in those marquee matchups as well.

"Keldon is beyond overly aggressive, and you can always tone that down," UK associate head coach Kenny Payne said. "He's learning."

In projecting the best- and worst-case scenarios for each of his early top-25 teams, ESPN reporter Myron Medcalf wrote "anything short of a top-three finish in the SEC and a run to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament seems unlikely."

The difference between that scenario and the best-case one (a national title) has been the separation between Calipari's elite Kentucky teams and his second-tier squads.

Identifying a true star could ensure the best-case scenario.

Johnson is starting to look the part.

Letter from home: A father's message to Kentucky's Ashton Hagans

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Oct. 5

These are 'Letters from Home,' and five-star point guard Ashton Hagans gets the first one, a dispatch from Covington, Ga., where father Marvin Hagans hopes Ashton will listen to Pop at least one more time.

Dear Ashton,

If you hadn't straightened up, I'd be walking this letter over to you from my apartment near campus. There was a time that

I assumed wherever you went to college, I'd have to come along for the ride to make sure you stayed focused. But since I'm still here and you're there in Lexington, looks like you're all grown up now.

It started that day you found out I was ready to ship you off to Oak Hill Academy before the 11th grade, when you begged me to stay. "Pop," you said, "I know I need to mature, but I don't want to leave my family." So we set some new rules and you swore, "I got you, Pop, I promise." You started acting like a man that day, and you've done everything I asked since.

(Just so the people reading this letter over our shoulder know: You were never a bad kid, Ash. You were just a kid. You'd get into I'm-having-fun mode and couldn't figure out how to turn that fun button off. I swear you stay smiling. There ain't that much to be smiling about!)

Then one day it happened: You realized that this place had taken you as far as it could and it was time to leave home, chase a bigger challenge, and I could not have been prouder.

Remember when we thought this was going to be a football thing? That after you smashed all his rec-league rushing records, maybe you'd go to Auburn like Ronnie Brown? I still believe you could've been a five-star recruit in both sports if that high school football coach hadn't forced you to choose.

Seems like you made the right decision, though, Ash. You've been doing that a lot lately. When you told me Kentucky was your dream school – and that you didn't want to wait until next year to play for Coach Cal – we put together a plan for you to graduate high school early. We always have a plan, don't we?

You trusted me in middle school when I said the Military 12, my little push-up and sit-up circuit, would make you different than all those other kids. So you hit the deck and did them every night, even when I could see you'd rather be anywhere else, and it worked.

Your body transformed, with an assist from these good genes I gave you, so you're welcome twice, but so did your mind. You learned the value of a routine, that a little discipline goes a long way.

You grew up into a John Wall clone and wanted to go where John went, be taught by John's teacher, get drafted where John did: No. 1 overall. But first, we had to figure out how to cram four extra high school classes into the six months between November of last year and June of this one so that you could be part of that super team Cal was putting together.

Those were some long, hard nights, pushing you through double doses of homework and studying. I always said I couldn't be two people to you – couldn't be Dad and Barney (yes, the singing purple dinosaur) – so I picked Dad, the bad cop. I was happy to take on that role if it got you to your dream.

But even I felt sorry for you some nights, seeing that stress on your face after a full day at school, a basketball workout afterward, and now sitting there at the kitchen table trying to solve a bunch of extra math problems so you could get on to Kentucky and get down to business. I wanted to tell you just forget it, go find your friends, be a kid. That's not your path, though.

The biggest challenge as your dad has always been keeping your eyes on the prize, recognizing that you have a gift that other kids don't, so you don't get to do what other kids do. When you have a gift like this, Ash, you have to sacrifice now to get that reward later. You can't be up all night playing games – rest, recover, take care of your body like a pro because that's what you want to be – and you can't just barely slide by on a 2.0 GPA. Hold yourself to a higher standard.

I bet you're rolling your eyes reading this, because you've heard it all from me a thousand times, and I have to give you props, son: You handled business. Staring down a deadline to graduate early, you put the pedal to the metal and got it done. But you aren't done.

My job is done. Yours is just starting. I held up my end of the bargain and got you where you wanted to go, but now you're there and it's time to hold up your end. While I'll always be here to guide you, the work is all on you. No more counting on someone else to push you. This is your latest challenge, and I know you'll accept it.

A younger Hagans with his father, Marvin. So as you begin this new life on your own, I want to leave you with a memory and a warning.

The memory first: You were in the sixth grade, I think, and they put a special-needs boy on your rec-league team. A lot of kids are mean, and most basketball players are selfish, but my son is neither. You put that boy under the basket and told him, "Stand right here and I'll get it to you." Watching how hard you worked making sure that kid got a bucket was crazy, and it made me so proud. We knew we had a caring child that day, and every day. People used to marvel at the way you treated the last guy on the bench like a fellow five-star, the way you sacrificed so many chances to score so that someone else could.

They started calling you a pass-first point guard and raving about your defense – nobody locks down like my boy – but do me a favor and be just a little selfish sometimes this season. Not in a hurt-the-team way. Just remind 'em that Ashton Hagans can get buckets, too.

And now the warning: That big heart of yours can get you in trouble. You're too trusting, Ash. You're about to find out that in your situation, a Kentucky star with an NBA future, there are a lot of people who'll act like they care about you. A bunch of new best friends who only want to get a piece of what's coming to you. Beware all the people who were never there for you before but suddenly want to be there now. Guard yourself like it was one of those boys from Duke.

I know you understand what I'm saying, because we've talked about all this, and I didn't move to Lexington because I believe you can do this on your own. But I'm never far if you need me, and on game days you'll hear me in the stands just the same as always, calling out low and deep, "A!"

It's like you told me once: You got this, I promise.

Love,
Pop

10 more years? Rejuvenated John Calipari zooming past supposed time limit at Kentucky

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Oct. 8

If the American presidency ages a man in dog years, what does it say about the Kentucky basketball coaching job that its toll is even worse? John Calipari sometimes imagines he's still the same relatively young, somewhat slender, seemingly inexhaustible guy who arrived in Lexington in 2009.

"Until you look in the mirror," Calipari said, "and then you say, 'What the hell happened there?' Everywhere I go, I joke [to UK fans]: 'I want you to go look at that picture of me at the press conference when I first took the job and then look at me now, and you'll feel bad for what you've done to me.' That isn't that long ago, but this is one of those all-encompassing jobs."

Calipari's dark, slicked-back hair has gone all gray as crow's feet creep around his eyes and the creases in his forehead deepen. These days, a belly pokes through the opening in his pinstriped suit jacket as he stomps down the sideline on two artificial hips. He had the second one replaced in 2014 and had a hernia repaired just this spring. A fellow coach asked recently how many total days he travels for recruiting, games, university functions, speaking engagement and personal trips. That got

Calipari thinking and he plans to go back through his detailed calendar to tally it up, but his best guess was that he's away from home about a third of the year.

"It's not just coaching here. It's not sitting in a chair. It's not watching tape," he said. "So if you don't want to take that on, this is probably the wrong job. The seat carries a different weight here in this state."

When Calipari took the job, he asked former Kentucky coach Joe B. Hall how long a mortal man – anyone other than Adolph Rupp, who had a superhuman, 42-year reign, albeit in a very different time – could sit on this throne before it ruined him. "About 10 years," said Hall, whose own 13-year run was longer than he planned. After about a decade, by his estimation, the pressure and exhaustion combine to commence a steady decline. Hell, it only took two years in this cauldron to cook Calipari's predecessor, Billy Gillispie, previously known as a very fine coach.

Back then, 10 years sounded to Calipari like a good number, a plenty long run. He'd never coached anywhere longer than nine seasons, after all. But then he blinked, and now the grandson of an immigrant coal miner and son of an airport baggage handler is preparing for his 10th season at the helm of the winningest program in college basketball history.

"That is amazing," he says now, considering how long and short it is at the same time. "Tenth season."

So as he approaches that prescribed expiration date looking exactly like a man who has stood under an intense spotlight for two and a half presidential terms, it seems like a pretty good time to ask: How many more?

"It's flown," said Calipari, who turns 60 in February. "I didn't think I would be coaching in my 60s, mainly because of the pace I was going. But then again, it took me 20 years to get a job like this. So at this point, I don't know. This platform will go away at some point. No one will worry about what I'm saying or what I think. [So] I'm not as anxious to leave and will probably stay much longer than I ever thought I would stay in coaching."

This is where you exhale, Kentucky fans. Even Hall, who has become a good friend and confidante of Calipari's, has retracted his earlier statement. "I'm going to change that," Hall told The Athletic. "He's done such a good job, I think people are going to urge him to stay longer. I don't think he's backsliding. If he did, I think he'd get out. In my case, I wanted to try some other endeavor and see what it was like to live a normal life. The pressure grows every year and I just wanted to experience life like other people do, but Cal was born for this. He's such a good marketer, has his health, loves the recruiting challenge, and he's so good at it. He could be one of those 70-year-old retirees."

Another decade of Calipari in Lexington? Is that really possible? Ten more years might be overly optimistic, but those close to the coach believe he's here for still several more seasons to come. The Athletic spoke to a half-dozen people connected to Calipari and the program and none of them believes – as has become an annual rumor – that he'll ever return to the NBA. They all think he'll retire at Kentucky, and no time soon.

See, for all that this job demands of a coach, it gives back fivefold if he wins. Calipari now makes $8 million a year, more than most head coaches in the pros, and has a massive support staff, private jets for recruiting, generous billionaire benefactors, equally rich tradition, fancy facilities and the most rabid fan base in the country at his disposal.

All those years he embraced the grind and hustled at Massachusetts and Memphis – carnival barking at every opportunity to make people pay attention – he dreamed of a job like this one, which is why Calipari has neither shrunken from the scrutiny nor collapsed under the potentially crushing weight of expectations here. Instead, he has run headlong into both. "You're going to complain when you're coaching at Kentucky?" he said before repeating one of his favorite lines: "There's no crying on the yacht."

Despite all the big things Calipari is expected to do as the face of a blueblood program, there are a lot fewer little, time-sucking, mind-numbing tasks for him to oversee than at previous stops. So much of the minutiae of a head coach's job elsewhere, "I don't have to touch here."

That (and his enormous salary) has allowed Calipari to spend "twice the time" and do "10 times more charity work" than at previous stops in his career. The platform has allowed him to raise and disperse more than a million dollars for charity each of the last five years through his fantasy camp and alumni weekends – and still millions more on short notice with telethons in 2010, 2012 and 2017 for victims of a Haitian earthquake, Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Harvey. Calipari, who was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2015 and will receive its "Service Above Self" award in November, knows that none of that is possible without the power of Kentucky basketball behind him.

Having won enough to guarantee a place on the short list of the game's greatest coaches, this is how Calipari talks about the job now: like a calling that has a lot less to do with basketball than it does changing lives. To hear him tell it, there is no more compelling reason to hang around a little (or a lot) longer than the opportunity to mold greatness and help fulfill dreams that will echo forward for generations.

"That's what wakes you up," he said. "The biggest thing for me is the impact we can have for [players] and their families. That will keep me going. And if I ever get to a point where I'm feeling that I'm not having that kind of impact, that the program is not having that kind of impact, that's when you start thinking [about leaving]. I'm not going to do this for numbers. I'm not doing it to win more of this than the other guy. That's not how I operate. But right now, this thing has been pretty good for everybody."

Calipari has famously, unapologetically, controversially declared Kentucky a "players first" program, and it has been especially good for them over the last nine years: 35 NBA draft picks – more than twice as many as second-place Duke in that time – with 26 first-rounders, 19 lottery picks and No. 1 overall selections John Wall, Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns. That trio and Devin Booker will all make at least $125 million on their current contracts and Calipari's former players have amassed well over a billion dollars in career earnings.

"I don't say this to brag, but I don't need to do this. I don't have to do this anymore. I can stop coaching and I'll be fine," he said. "I don't do this because of [money]. I literally don't have to do this to win more games than so-and-so or more championships than so-and-so or legacy stuff. I'm not worried about that stuff. That stuff comes when you're dead and gone and it won't be evaluated by most of you. It will be evaluated by others. I feel good about what I've done. However history states it, it will state it."

Historians will surely argue over the UMass and Memphis portions of Calipari's bio – what with the vacated Final Fours at both places – and scrunch their noses at his failed stint with the New Jersey Nets, but so far should have very few nits to pick with his Kentucky resume.

He's won 81 percent of his games in nine seasons, including a ridiculous 150-8 record at Rupp Arena, and reached seven Sweet 16s, six Elite Eights, four Final Fours and two NCAA championship games. Calipari delivered his first and the program's eighth national title in 2012. But here's where the critics, some in his own "you people are crazy" army, will jump in. With all that talent, just one championship? Never mind that the Cats have been ranked No. 1 at some point in six of his nine seasons (meaning they're

almost always a contender) or the fact that Kentucky hadn't been to a Final Four in a dozen years before Calipari arrived.

Shouldn't he have another trophy in the case? Or two more? Or three? The Wildcats probably had the best team in the country in 2010 when Wall and Co. lost in the Elite Eight and again in 2015 when a bid at college basketball's first 40-0 season died in the Final Four. There was also the improbable run to the 2014 championship game, where UK promptly delivered a dud against an entirely average Cinderella squad from Connecticut.

"We could have four or five [titles] and we don't," Calipari said. "To tell you I have any disappointment, I really don't. I wish we would have won a couple more for all our fans and everybody there, but it wasn't going to change my life any. Maybe more kids would have gotten drafted. I wish we could have done it. Every year I'm coaching to win a national title, that's what I'm coaching for. Every year I coach here. Have we been in the hunt every year? I would say every year but one, and if a kid [Nerlens Noel in 2013] didn't get hurt, who knows if that would have been every year?"

Despite the popular narrative that most Kentucky fans have a championship-or-bust mentality, Calipari actually thinks that is a relatively small (if loud) faction.

"They want to be in the hunt for recruits and they want to have a chance to win it every year," he said. "They'd love to win it every year, but they want to make sure we're one of those teams every year. That's fair, I think. Being at Kentucky, that's a fair thing to want."

Even so, trying to rebuild a roster every season and, with mostly one-and-done freshmen, make a run in a single-elimination tournament that is wildly popular precisely because upsets are so prevalent will make a man gray and wrinkled. Narrowly missing history will make him sick.

"I wish we could have gone 40-0," Calipari said of the 2015 season. "I wish we could've done it just to be able to say [they did something no one ever has]. When we won the national title, when I grabbed my wife, I said, 'OK, that's over now. We don't have to deal with this anymore. They can't say [he never won one].' Now the next thing is, 'Well, you haven't won enough. You should have won more. You've had all these kids, why haven't you won more?' You're right. I should be John Wooden. I should have won 9, 10, 11. But that is people's opinions and that's fine; I accept it and know. Maybe someone here could have. Maybe the next guy will. Have at it."

No reasonable Kentucky fan is ready for the next guy – "If he were to leave now, I don't know that anybody would even want the job following him," said Hall, the man who replaced Rupp – especially not with the team Calipari has assembled for the 2018-19 season.

While the three years since his last Final Four appearance seemed to speed up his aging process with too-young teams riding stress-riddled roller coasters toward disappointing NCAA Tournament exits, this new group appears to have put some pep back in the old man's step. Anyone who has heard him talk or seen him tweet in the last five months knows that Swaggy Cal is suddenly back.

He signed another top-two recruiting class nationally, as he has every season since arriving, and added the most coveted graduate transfer in college basketball, former Stanford star Reid Travis. After flirting with the NBA, PJ Washington returned for a sophomore season in which he's expected to be dominant, and former McDonald's All-Americans Quade Green and Nick Richards came back too.

Early reports and four televised exhibition games in the Bahamas indicate these Cats not only have that elusive balance of youth and experience, they can also fill it up from three-point range, love to defend and have an edge about them that means a 10-deep roster isn't afraid to fight each other for a spot in practice or the opponent like a pack of wolves come tip-off.

"I was so jacked to be practicing," Calipari said after one early workout this summer. "I think they could tell that I was excited to be back."

They could. Staring down what Joe B. Hall figured was the breaking point for most men, Calipari will instead begin his 10th season rejuvenated.

"Last year, he was worn out by the end of the year," said his son Brad, to whom time has been much kinder. The shy, pudgy kid at his father's introductory press conference in 2009 is now a slimmed-down, muscled-up junior guard for the Wildcats. "But I think this year, he wants it to be more of a player-led team, which is ultimately what he wants every year. He knows some years it won't be that. That's his goal for this year, and I think that'll kind of take some of the pressure off him, kind of just let him relax a little bit."

Well, maybe not relax. That is not how most around the program would describe what they're seeing from Calipari these days. By all accounts, he's energized and eager. He's as hands-on with (and effusive in praise of) this team as he's ever been.

"There's just something about him when he talks about this team," senior Jonny David said. "We go to practice and he's just really, really excited about this group. I even told the guys, like, 'I've never seen him this excited about a team, to be honest.' I mean, he's been excited about our teams in the past, but there's just something different about this year."

Calipari senses another special season could be brewing and it turns out, unlike the men in pursuit, the thrill of the chase never does get old.

Tyler Herro wanted bigger than Wisconsin

By: TJ Walker | Kentucky Sports Radio | Oct. 8

It didn't feel good when Tyler Herro's classmates called him a snake when he decommitted from Wisconsin.

The 6-foot-5, 195-pound shooting guard from Milwaukee was committed to the Badgers for 13 months but as he blew up during the summer heading into his junior season, Herro knew he could have more options. He initially picked Wisconsin over DePaul and Marquette.

"I wanted to play somewhere bigger than that," Herro said. "Obviously not a lot of people get the opportunity to play at somewhere like Kentucky. When I got the call that I could play here, why not? I know I'm good enough, work hard, play with a group of guys like this that have the same goal as me, get to the NBA at the end of the day, that's really what went into it."

Prior to committing to Wisconsin, Herro did earn an offer from Oregon and Arizona, more prestigious schools than other schools on his list, but after decommitting from Wisconsin in the fall of 2017 he started hearing from Kentucky, Villanova and Kansas.

Herro said while making the best decision for him and his family, disappointed Badger fans turned on him.

He admitted that it took some getting used to during his senior year.

"It was a little difficult at the very beginning," Herro said. "Even kids from my own school were calling me a snake and this and that. At the end of the day it's whatever is best for me and my family and friends. So, I think I made the right decision obviously and I'm ready to get started."

Herro joked he's the most hated man in Wisconsin and that hate will likely only intensify if he thrives at Kentucky. After just four games in the Bahamas it seems like Herro is heading in the right direction.

"I always expect to play pretty well," Herro said. "I knew it was going to be a little bit different but going out there and playing

at my best is what I try to do and I think I played pretty well."

The freshman led Kentucky in scoring with 17.3 points per game. He was 8 of 18 from behind the arc and the rest of UK's team combined for 18 of 50. Not only was Herro dangerous from outside, he surprised UK fans and national media alike by being able to attack the rim. Only three players went to the line more than Herro and Kentucky fans loved what Herro did from the charity stripe. He didn't miss. 15 made attempted free throws and 15 makes.

While Wisconsin fans may hate him, Herro said he was more popular in Lexington after the Bahamas.

"Everybody started to know me on campus," Herro said. "A lot of people wanted to take pictures and autographs wherever I go, so I mean, it was like that home but not as much as it is here. It was definitely different."

Herro doesn't have folks licking his car just yet, but if he plays as well for UK this season as he did in the Bahamas, he will be a rockstar on Kentucky's campus.

But he seemed more excited being on a team of other great players that help make him better.

"I think we have a group of guys that are willing to do their role, whatever Coach Cal wants," Herro said. "We all listen and we all really work hard."

And it would have never came to fruition if Herro stayed committed to the Badgers. He wasn't the only Wildcat that originally planned to play elsewhere. Freshmen E.J. Montgomery and Ashton Hagans were committed to other schools before eventually picking the Cats and Reid Travis played four years for Stanford before enrolling at UK.

"It definitely would have been different," Herro said. "EJ also decommitted.... If Reid doesn't come it's different. We definitely need every piece that we have to be the No. 1 team in the country or whatever it may be, but with the group of guys that we have we're definitely in a good position."

And as for the haters in Wisconsin, Herro has moved on and is looking forward to the upcoming season.

"At the end of the day Kentucky is where I wanted to be," Herro said.

Bully ball or three-point threat? PJ Washington says he can be both at UK

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 8

It was a pretty simple plan laid out by PJ Washington at the NBA Draft Combine back in May.

If he was a guaranteed first-round pick, he'd keep his name in the draft.

If he wasn't, he'd return to Kentucky for his sophomore season.

Washington is back in Lexington with big expectations and something to prove to NBA scouts.

There's no denying the 6-foot-8 forward's talent. He proved that toward the end of last season, when he was clearly one of the Cats' most effective players down the stretch while largely playing a bully-ball style in the paint against overmatched opponents.

The question this season will be how to balance what he's shown he's best at with what he needs to show to pro scouts while also putting the Wildcats in the best position to win.

The NBA Draft process was an educational exercise for what Washington hopes is a growing game. This season, he'll need to show his work.

"I learned a lot," Washington said of the process. "I definitely need to work on my outside shooting and just being more consistent with that. Just keep staying focused on my body, and basically just bringing energy on both ends of the floor. Every possession of every game, just playing hard."

Those areas of focus come straight from the NBA personnel that provided Washington with feedback over the summer, and his preseason trip to the Bahamas proved he's taking the right steps to meet those goals.

ESPN draft analyst Jonathan Givony, who has been watching Washington since the player's early high school days, noticed the improvement.

"Washington looks to be in much better shape and was competing with higher intensity than we saw from him for most of last season," Givony wrote after the Bahamas trip. "He had some very impressive moments rotating for blocks inside and outside the arc with excellent timing. If he can indeed continue to protect the rim, switch out onto guards on pick-and-rolls and hold his own on the defensive glass, he'll make a strong case for himself as a versatile, small-ball big man."

Givony also noted that Washington was 3-for-7 on three-point attempts, including a corner three. As a freshman in college, he made just five of 21 threes (23.8 percent). As a senior in high school — playing for his father at Findlay Prep (Nev.) — Washington showed an improving stroke and greater ability to hit outside shots while playing more of a point forward role.

That role obviously changed when he got to UK, especially as he was pushed more toward the block late in the season. He attempted only one three-pointer over the Cats' final 13 games.

"At that point last year, I just tried to do whatever the team needed me to do to win," he said. "So if that was playing the '5' I was happy with that, just trying to go down there and do the best I can."

This is a new season, and Washington has already had discussions with John Calipari about how to expand his role to show off a more versatile game to those watching in the NBA.

This time around, he has at least a couple of things working in his favor.

First, his outside shot is better. More importantly, Calipari trusts him to use it.

"I've been working on it every day in practice," Washington said. "And I've been shooting a lot more threes this year in practice. I'm comfortable with it, and I feel like Coach Cal is comfortable, too. He just said you have to have confidence in yourself, and you have to come in here and work on it. He said if you work on it in practice and it looks good, you're going to be able to shoot 'em in the game with confidence."

Two, his supporting cast should better complement what he's trying to accomplish.

In the frontcourt, the returning Nick Richards is, by all accounts, much improved. Freshman EJ Montgomery brings high expectations as a versatile forward. And graduate transfer Reid Travis should provide the perfect tough-guy-with-something-to-prove partner to shoulder the load.

And the backcourt should be filled with better shooters than last season.

That means more room for Washington to stretch his game.

"I feel like I have a lot more space this year, just because we have more shooters that will be able to space the court a lot better than what we did last year," he said. "And I like to play mismatches. If I have somebody that I feel like can't guard me, I'm definitely going to go down low and just try to bully them. But I'm just going to try to play my game within the flow of the offense."

Immanuel Quickley compares John Calipari to his mother

By: TJ Wallker | Kentucky Sports Radio | Oct. 8

We all can get drained following a college recruitment. The lists being cut to 15, then 10, then five. The drama of hanging onto every quote and over-analyzing every prospect's social media post.

That's why Immanuel Quickley's recruitment was a breath of fresh air. He took

visits and had a list, but he was as honest as a recruit could be during his recruitment. He talked leaders and ignored building up drama.

He also didn't want the schools that missed out on him waiting until the spring unsure if they were landing a five-star point guard, so once he knew he wanted to commit to UK that's exactly what Quickley did.

Quickley said the first time he knew the Cats were in a good spot was after playing for Calipari in the summer of 2017 for the Team USA U19 team.

"After USA when I was playing with Coach Cal was a big one," Quickley said. "I got to see him not only on the floor but off the floor. He was a real down to Earth guy that I think a lot of people don't get to see when we were in Egypt on camels and seeing the Pyramids of Giza and stuff like that. I think that was one of the turning points in my recruitment."

Although the United States failed to win gold, it didn't take long for Quickley to see why so many of Calipari's point guards are successful at the next level. That summer Quickley was only coached by Calipari for a few weeks, but now he's getting to spend time with the Hall of Fame head coach every day.

"On the floor that was my first time playing for him," Quickley said. "I see why his point guards do so good because he pushes them. It's not easy playing for Coach Cal but if you just put in the work and listen to what he's got to say you'll do fine."

And as for that upset loss to Canada in the semifinals? That's something that isn't discussed between Calipari and Quickley.

"That has never came up again," Quickley said. "It will always be a memory for me just visiting Egypt. That's something a lot of people can't say they've done before."

But UK's staff still needed to build a relationship with Quickley and his family, and oddly enough Quickley said his college head coach and his mother share a lot of the same traits.

"Coach Cal was really transparent and real real with me," Quickley said. "My mom has always been real with me, she doesn't lie to me. She tells me what I need to hear not what I want to hear. I think that's kinda how Coach Cal was with me. He told me the truth. He told me other point guards were going to be here with me but I just gotta work hard and things like that, so I think that's the real reason why I wanted to come to Kentucky."

Calipari told Quickley that they would be bringing in other guards. The Cats also signed Ashton Hagans and Tyler Herro at the guard position, plus Quade Green returned for his sophomore season. With Keldon Johnson being a true three, there's a lot of bodies for seemingly only two positions.

Quickley embraced the crowded backcourt.

"The NBA is kinda the same way," Quickley said. "It's gonna be six, five or six players at one position. If you're running from it now you're definitely not gonna be ready for it at the next level."

And it's made for battles in practice.

"Practices have been real hard," Quickley said. "I'm going against Ashton, Keldon is going against Tyler. The bigs are going against each other and everybody is getting better just from the high level of play and everybody is rising up. I think when we got against competition it made it a lot easier because we were going against somebody else. Practices are way harder than the games."

The steady Quickley had a solid showing in the Bahamas in August. He may not be UK's best shooter, most athletic player, or best defender, but he's a do-it-all guard with few weaknesses. In four games in the Bahamas he averaged 7.3 points, a team-high 4.5 assists and over one steal per game.

"Individually I'm just looking forward to getting better everyday," Quickley said. "I enjoy that part of the process of just getting better, working on my game and stuff like that.

"As a team, kinda the same thing. Getting better as a team everyday. We compete and practice hard. We're going at it. By the time March comes hopefully we'll be ready and we'll be really well-tuned, fine-tuned at what we do."

'He loves Kentucky': Jemarl Baker ready to make his debut as a Wildcat

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 8

The question has been a common one for Jemarl Baker.

"When are you going to play?" everyone wants to know.

The UK redshirt freshman hasn't played in a basketball game in more than 18 months. He's been hearing that question for most of that time.

"Almost every day," Baker replied when asked how often it gets asked.

"All the time," his father, Jemarl Baker Sr., said about the frequency of the query.

Their hope is, a few weeks from now, they won't have to hear it again.

Baker — a 6-foot-4 shooting guard from Menifee, Calif. — came to UK last season as a much-needed late addition to the Wildcats' recruiting class of 2017. He was a Top 100 national prospect who could do a lot of things on the court. One of his best traits — and one that UK team would sorely need — was his ability to hit outside shots.

Instead, he watched the Wildcats from the bench.

Baker also came to Lexington with a lingering knee injury originally suffered in the California state title game. He was setting a screen when an opponent tried to run through it, and the two players knocked knees. Baker played through the pain and won a state championship that day. He then waited through the swelling and eventually found out the injury was not a simple bone bruise — as originally thought — but a torn meniscus.

He ultimately had surgery last fall and was expected to return to the court later in the season. Baker was making good progress with his rehab, and then he hit a wall.

"He got to about 80 percent, and it just stayed at 80 percent," said his father. The family and UK consulted with the surgeons, and they said it could take another few months to cover that final 20 percent to full health. So Baker was shut down for the season.

"It took us all by surprise," Baker Sr. said.

It certainly wasn't the way his son wanted to start his college career. Understandably, he was upset. His father noticed it on his television screen from the other side of the country.

"I could see him on the sideline sometimes, and he didn't look very good," Baker Sr. recalled.

Father gave son a phone call. "C'mon, man. You have to be supporting your teammates. You can't be out there looking like that," he told him.

Jemarl agreed, and he made the best of it.

He now looks back on his first year in college as a learning experience.

"First of all, it was just fun to be able to watch it that close. I had never been able to be that close before," he said. "But just learning from the greatest coach in college basketball history, in my opinion, it was fun. Being able to watch practice every day. Watch how they compete. Watch the little details that go into it, it's been great. And it's been helping for the practices that I've been able to be a part of."

Baker was expected to make his debut in a UK uniform during the team's four-game trip to the Bahamas over the summer. He was again ruled out with knee soreness, refueling speculation on his future and more questions about if he would ever play for the Wildcats.

He said it was a minor flare-up that came

as the result of weight room workouts. He also said he's been back on the practice court since the team returned to Lexington.

"It's been great. I feel good now," Baker said. "My knee feels really good. My body feels good. I'm just trying to get back in the rhythm of things."

That means lots of competition in a backcourt that includes returning guard Quade Green, and highly touted freshmen Ashton Hagans, Immanuel Quickley, Keldon Johnson and Tyler Herro.

That's what Baker has been waiting for, and that's what he spent the early part of his summer back home in California thinking about.

"He loves Kentucky. He loves his teammates, he loves his coaches, he loves the school," said Baker Sr. "When he came back here — you know, he missed us. He hadn't seen us for a while. California, you know. But he was so ready to go back. He was so ready to go back and get with his teammates and go do what they want to do, which is win a national championship."

Ashton Hagans details his long journey to UK

By: TJ Walker | Kentucky Sports Radio | Oct. 9

Everything had to work out perfectly for Ashton Hagans to end up at Kentucky.

Hagans was once a Georgia commit for a few months. He also was a class of 2019 recruiting target, meaning he should still be in high school. Luckily for UK, both those things changed.

Once former Georgia head coach Mark Fox was fired Hagans started looking at other schools. It was a slow process but eventually the Cats locked in on the 6-foot-3, 192-pound point guard. Hagans had to put in a great deal of work to even be in a position to play at any college for the 2018-2019 season

"(UK's staff) were on me but they weren't really talking to me like that," Hagans said. "… I was getting all my schoolwork done, trying to get there, get there. I was working hard, still had to workout early in the morning. Everything that was going on I still had my classwork when I was still in the 11th grade. I had all that on top. My dad was telling me 'Keep fighting son. You've been working hard, don't give up now. Keep it going.' That's all it was. He was on me, my mom was on me. It was like just let me get this done so everything can get off my shoulders. Now that I'm here it's like, dang, I really did it. Working hard."

It's almost impossible to imagine.

While Hagans was going through his junior year of high school he was having to continue to workout and practice basketball, while trying to do enough coursework to reclassify and still having his normal schoolwork from his junior year teachers at Newton High School in Cartersville, Ga.

Oh, and he was having to deal with his recruitment, a stressful and important process. Hagans committed to Georgia in December and he said that's when he started getting serious about reclassifying.

But things would become even more complicated for Hagans. Thinking he could just focus on reclassifying the Bulldogs fired Fox. This added more to his plate because it meant Hagans was going to have to through another recruitment.

"Me and Fox had the relationship because I was always up there with my cousin (Trey Thompkins) cuz he played there," Hagans said. "I was always up there. The bond we had got, when all that happened, I was like loyalty over anything. Cal wasn't gonna talk to me because him and Fox were like best friends. He wasn't gonna have no conversations with me but he was conversing with my dad. When that had happened I was like 'Dang, I might as well go to a bigger step, next level.' I just decided to make the decision to come here and see how everything happened from here."

Kentucky was the bigger step but Hagans still had plenty to do to get the next level. One of John Calipari's most frequently used recruiting pitches is UK isn't for everyone. He tells recruits how much work it will be and how nothing is promised or guaranteed.

Hagans previous experience shows he's not scared to put in the work.

"I did what I had to do to get back here," Hagans said. "I'm just focusing on right now and what I have going on right now."

Hagans looked at a few schools after backing off his Georgia pledge and said Tom Crean was frequently at his school but the Cats were the clear favorites once they offered in late March. Two weeks later he committed and two months later he officially reclassified and was on Kentucky's campus.

Hagans has always been solid at balancing his time and making sure he gets things done, but he laughed when talking about how challenging the college workload was once he arrived to campus.

One big difference is he has managers to help him keep his life together in college.

"Crazy," Hagans said. "We gotta wakeup early, go to class, when you come back you have like a three-hour practice. That's when we start practicing for real. We practice, we lift. You gotta time management. Get everything right, do everything what they're telling you to do. We have (student manager) that comes gets us in the morning and make sure we're on time for everything. Just make sure you're doing what you gotta do to get out of here.

"… It's real crazy. I ain't never did nothing like this in my life. I'm getting used to it. We are getting used to it. Sometimes I oversleep, my boys… if I'm late to something or about to be late they'll come in there and wake me up. The managers are like coaches, really. If we're about to be late they'll be beating on our door all day until we get up. Really, you have no chance to mess up here. I really like it."

'It gets crazy sometimes': These Kentucky Wildcats love to talk trash

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 9

A newcomer to the UK basketball program but a veteran observer of the Wildcats' practices, Zan Payne has seen a lot over the last several years.

Payne, the son of UK assistant coach Kenny Payne, has watched from the sidelines of the Joe Craft Center as the greatest teams of the John Calipari era have come together on the court.

This season, Payne is actually on the team, but he's sitting out as he rehabs from a torn ACL. That means more watching. And, oh, the things he's seen.

One of Payne's biggest takeaways through the first few practices of the summer and early fall: these Cats like to talk. A lot.

Calipari has even had to stop practice at times, yelling at his players because they were exchanging so much trash talk.

"I ain't never seen that before," Payne said with a big laugh.

Other Cats confirmed the competitive nature of these early practices.

Ashton Hagans, one of the team's hot-shot freshmen, recalled a particular day when he and Keldon Johnson, another one of the team's hot-shot freshmen, got going a little hotter than their coach thought was appropriate.

"He has got on me a couple times when I haven't turned it off," Hagans said. "Like, one practice, we was going at it. We was talking a lot of trash. I think I got carried away a little bit. Me and Keldon, we just kept talking. I didn't turn it off. He just chewed me out."

In fact, Hagans said, Calipari threatened to kick them out of practice if they didn't knock it off.

"I was like,' all right. My bad, Coach. Let me calm down. We just got a little too excited.' He was trying to taunt me and I was

still going. That's all it was," Hagans said.

Just how much trash are these guys talking?

"A lot. A lot. It's fun, though," Johnson said. "I think we definitely — we be going at each other, talking a lot of trash. And, of course, Coach Cal, he stopped it. But we know, at the end of the day, we're teammates. We're doing it just to get the best out of each other and push each other to that next level. We're talking trash, and it ain't nothing too personal. But we're definitely getting after each other."

Johnson is the top offender.

"It gets crazy sometimes," said fellow freshman Immanuel Quickley. "Keldon's definitely the biggest one. It don't even gotta be basketball. It could be getting the last bottle of water, and he's going to trash talk if he gets it."

Quickley, yet another five-star newcomer in UK's backcourt, tends to look the other way.

Two summers ago, he was a 16-year-old point guard trying out for a USA Basketball junior team in Colorado Springs, Colo. Other guards at that camp included Collin Sexton — now a rookie with the Cleveland Cavaliers — and Javonte Smart, a top-50 recruit who will be a freshman at Louisiana State this season.

Sexton, well known for his trash-talking abilities, did plenty of jawing that week. The super-competitive point guard was constantly in the face of Quickley and Smart, to varying results.

Smart snapped back at one point, setting off a testy moment that coaches quelled before it escalated. Quickley's facial expression never changed as the taunts came his way. Two years later, he still remembers those events. "And if I'm not mistaken, I think our team won, too," Quickley said, offering up a little after-the-fact trash talk.

He's still not one to start such conversations on the court.

"I'm the the type of person that if you trash talk me, I'm gonna trash talk back … sometimes," he said. "I might just kill you and might not say nothing. I'm really not the guy to start nothing, but I'll finish it if I got to.

"It just takes being locked in to what's going on. I think that's what trash talk tries to do. It's a mind game. So if you don't get into the mind game and you just focus on the game and the task at hand, you know you're locked in and focused."

Whether or not Calipari likes the talk, he has to be pleased with the results.

UK's young players recalled the most tense moments on the practice court so far not with disdain or hard feelings, but with utter glee. There were smiles, laughs, even giggles at the thought of some of the trash talk that's been exchanged in the early stages of this preseason.

It's bringing these young Cats closer together.

"Me and Keldon, in the summer, we were going at it every day, getting ready for the Bahamas," said freshman Tyler Herro. "Coach Cal told us, 'John Wall and Eric Bledsoe used to do the same thing. And once they stepped in the locker room, they knew that was all just being competitive. They were back to being brothers off the court.' And that's what me and Keldon do real well."

That's what they all do, according to every player asked about the verbal jousting.

They knew it was going to be competitive. They knew they'd have to fight for playing time. And they now know — no matter what is said between those lines in practice — they're in it together.

"That's what we came here for," Quickley said. "We all understand what's going on. Trying to kill each other on the court and we're being brothers off the court. I feel like if we were being fake on the court, then we would be fake off the court. But we keep it real with each other.

"We're trying to go at it and kill each other, so that's why we're good friends off the court."

Religious experience: 'Grown man' Reid Travis gives Kentucky the veteran it's lacked for years

By: Mike DeCourcy | The Sporting News | Oct. 10

During the four years he spent strolling the 8,180 acres of paradise comprising Stanford University, Reid Travis was a big man on campus, strictly in a literal sense. He stands 6-9, has a 7-foot wingspan and back then weighed 262 pounds. His classmates were not agnostic about what a basketball player could accomplish on behalf of the Cardinal with these God-given physical gifts, but neither was it a religion to them.

Then came his conversion. After accumulating 1,427 points, 758 rebounds, 82 starts, two first-team All-Pac-12 Conference selections and precisely zero NCAA Tournament appearances (as well as the requisite academic credits to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Science, Technology and Society), Travis determined the pursuit of his current goals might be better nurtured elsewhere.

He wants an enduring career in the NBA; he wants to end his college career having experienced and achieved in the NCAA Tournament. In pursuit of those endeavors, he decided to become a Kentucky Wildcat, as a graduate transfer.

Here, even a trip to the grocery store can be construed as a revival.

"I went to Trader Joe's. That's kind of where I like to go pick up some groceries on the weekend. I get in there and like five people started clapping," Travis told Sporting News. "A grandma gave me a hug and said, 'Thank you so much for coming,' all that stuff. It was almost like I did a service to her, deciding to come here, that's how happy she was. And was almost tearing up about it.

"I was like, 'Wow, this is — this is a different type of level.'"

Travis' arrival in the Commonwealth has engendered a profound sense of culture shock for all involved — in a good way. Among the players John Calipari has recruited to Kentucky since becoming head coach in 2009, of whom 27 were on NBA opening-day rosters last season, there has never been anyone like Travis.

Yes, he is a one-and-done, as so many of Calipari's Wildcats have been. But that's only because he already spent three years of NCAA eligibility and is now a graduate student at UK. Travis will be 23 by the time the 2019 NCAA Tournament is contested. Kentucky's starting five in the Sweet 16 of last season's tourney — every one of whom was a freshman and three of whom left after a single year — averaged 19 years of age.

"It was so hard. It aged me five years," Calipari told SN. "Because every day you're teaching so much, but you also have to coach intensity, the ability to compete."

The orientation toward youth in Kentucky's program is firmly established. Of the 38 players who have averaged at least 25 minutes a game in Calipari's nine seasons at Kentucky, only three were seniors. This UK team will be more experienced, but it's still a UK team.

Travis has played 98 games in his college career. The nine other players competing for prominent positions in Calipari's rotation this season have played 108. Combined. When Travis began his first practice with the Cardinal in the autumn of 2014, Kentucky's five current scholarship freshmen were in ninth grade.

That age difference comes with complications, but as Travis' older brother Jonah says, "Of course they are going to have different experiences than he has, but they're still basketball players, they're still young guys."

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Travis' first steps toward Kentucky occurred in Stillwater, Okla., of all places, when he recorded his 16th double-double of the 2017-18 season in Stanford's second-

round NIT loss to Oklahoma State. He gave himself a two-week window to vacation away from basketball, then devoted the whole of his athletic energies to exploring his potential as an NBA draft pick.

From the time that break ended until the time he withdrew from the draft's early entry list on May 30, Travis trained, traveled and thought about his future. He worked out for the NBA's Nets, Nuggets, Cavaliers, Timberwolves and Warriors. He talked to scouts and personnel executives. He even met Kentucky forward PJ Washington at the Minnesota workout, although Washington did not recruit him to join the Wildcats — at that point, he didn't know whether he'd return to college.

"The feedback that I had based on the five workouts wasn't necessarily the feedback that I wanted," Travis said. He was told he might be a late second-round pick, could go undrafted, might find his way into the league with a two-way contract. "I felt like, with another year on the table, that's when that crept into my mind: It's not necessarily what I wanted, to come back to college for a fifth year, but with this feedback and what I'm hearing, it's not a bad idea to go to work on some of those things in a college setting."

He'd been a McDonald's All-American in high school and a big-deal recruit for Stanford coach Johnny Dawkins. When Travis arrived on campus, the Cardinal were coming off their first NCAA Tournament appearance of the decade. He averaged 6.2 points and 5.6 rebounds as a freshman reserve and helped Stanford to the NIT championship. That all seemed promising.

Travis injured his left leg eight games into his sophomore year, however, and the team finished at .500 without him. Dawkins was dismissed. Under new coach Jerod Haase, Travis excelled individually in two full seasons, but his impending graduation meant he could search for a new basketball home and be eligible to play immediately.

"I didn't want it to be something where I'm just doing this so I can go to the NBA next year," Travis told SN. "I want to enjoy the process and have a new set of challenges, a new set of goals. What does all that look like? I sat down and talked with my family and told them, 'This is what I'm looking at: I want to win at a high level; I want to put myself in the best position for the draft next year; I want to make these changes to my game.'

"Once I did that, it was clear to me that it would be good to look at other options."

Reid and Jonah Travis are extremely close. Once a reserve forward at Harvard, now a senior media associate with online advertising company Taboola, Jonah — based out of New York City — spent most every weekend last winter traveling to Reid's Stanford games. He said the grad transfer option was on Reid's mind "for a while." As they spoke, as a family, to consider the next step, they "looked at a number of different places that have had success not only with players in general, but specifically at his position." They looked at rosters to see how he might fit in with current players.

After Reid made the transfer official, they heard from coaches, including Calipari and associate head coach Kenny Payne. "The first conversation we had on the phone," Travis said, "he was telling me things that he saw in my game on film and was already giving me advice and critiques. And this was before I decided to come to Kentucky. I really respected that."

Jonah likewise was impressed by conversations with Payne. "Kenny sold us on that things are done completely with the NBA in mind, and his future in mind. There isn't anything they put in, a workout he'll be doing, a meal that he'll have or ways that he'll be presented to the public that isn't calculated and that isn't conducive to him advancing to the next level."

At Stanford, Travis was known for his work close to the basket, for his astonishing strength and will. Said Washington coach Mike Hopkins: "We showed up early for our game at Stanford, and there's one guy in the gym: Reid Travis, working on his game."

The modern NBA, however, wants players to defend on the perimeter, to handle the basketball in space, to shoot it from the outside, if they can. These were the areas Travis still needed work. "He's very easy to pick apart, what he's not," an NBA Eastern Conference personnel executive told SN. "His college career has been interesting; it's probably better categorized as some untapped potential."

Even now, months after Travis arrived and enrolled and participated with the Wildcats in their playing trip to the Bahamas, Calipari still talks about what UK can do for Travis more than what Travis can do for UK.

"The thing I'm trying to do is make sure there's three or four things they see in him that they haven't seen in the past as he's being evaluated," Calipari said. "Be quick to the rim. Running and driving. Get better with the ball. No gathering yourself. Get it and go. But still be a beast around the goal."

In that regard, Calipari wanted Travis to be lighter. He suggested he drop about 25 pounds. When Travis got down to 245, "I was so proud of him, so I said, 'You may need to lose about five more. What's your body fat now?' He said 5 percent. I said, 'What? That would mean you'd need to lose a kidney.'

"If he can catch it, explode quick, do two to three jumps at a time, he's a different guy now. If they see him playing above the rim … if they see he's more of a fluid runner, and then they'll watch him and say, 'Damn.'"

Kentucky "checked all the boxes," Jonah said. There was one catch: Calipari openly campaigned against the graduate transfer contagion, specifically after guard Damion Lee left Drexel in 2015 and enrolled at rival Louisville. Calipari called it "bad for the business" in an interview with the Philadelphia Inquirer. He allowed that he was disgusted to have taken Julius Mays as a grad transfer from Wright State in 2012.

Calipari told SN the difference with Travis is that mid-major "coaches get fired for this" when Power 5 schools take in their players. Indeed, Bruiser Flint was in charge at Drexel for 14 years, five times earning bids to the NIT. But he went 6-25 after Lee transferred and was let go. He's now an assistant at Indiana.

"This is different," Calipari said. "This is a kid from a Power 5. This is more about the kid now than anything else."

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It's not lost on Travis that the site of the 2019 Final Four is U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, his beloved hometown. When he was back there over the summer, he and his father drove past the building, which opened a year earlier. "There's a lot of people that supported me and helped me get to the position where I'm at today that never got to see me play in person in college because I've been so far away from home," Travis said. "That's definitely something that's on my mind every day."

If everything goes according to plan, if all of Kentucky's dreams are fulfilled as of April 2019, Travis will become an enduring legend in the Bluegrass and beyond. This will be true no matter what he contributes to a national championship. He could be a double-figure scorer or not, the team's leading rebounder or not, a defensive force or not. He'll probably find a way to be most or all these things, but merely being older in a Kentucky uniform will make him a hero.

A savior, even.

The opponents of the NBA's age-limit rule are so adamantly opposed to "one-and-done" that even if Tyler Herro becomes the shooter UK lacked last season and Immanuel Quickley becomes the primary point guard and Keldon Johnson performs like the team's best pro prospect and Ashton Hagans changes games with his defense and EJ Montgomery becomes a produc-

tive big guy — if all of this helps add up to a Kentucky's ninth NCAA championship, Travis' share of the credit will be exorbitant.

He chuckles when I tell him this.

"I think that just puts added pressure on the team and myself to say, 'Look, you're the missing piece that needs to make this happen,'"Travis said. "But I will say it is a unique situation, and I take pride in that. I think it would be naive for me to look over the fact that the situation I'm in, as far as coming in as a fifth year, is a cool and unique experience. I like that I'm really the first of its kind here at Kentucky."

It is assumed Travis will be an immediate team leader, but there are obstacles to this. For one, he might not start. In the Bahamas, Kentucky opened with 6-11 sophomore Nick Richards at center and sophomore Washington in a sort of stretch-four position. Travis knows college basketball better than any player who will be a part of Kentucky's rotation, but he doesn't know Kentucky basketball better. "I lean on some of these guys and ask them a lot of questions," he said. Washington, Richards and point guard Quade Green each have played a full season in the SEC.

"I wish we had a guy like Reid last year," Washington told SN. "Reid's just a great guy to play with. He definitely has the experience in college basketball. He is a leader. He's showing these young guys how to get it done every day, how to go in and work and come out and play hard. He plays hard every possession. He has grown-man strength. He definitely knows how to move you out of the way."

Travis' graduate-school classes meet at night, Monday and Tuesday, so he has plenty of time to concentrate on becoming the player Kentucky needs him to be and the NBA wants him to be. "Reid is basically a pro," Quickley said. Travis must govern how much time he spends on the court during the daytime to avoid burning out.

"I am actually a big fan of his. I'm really comfortable going down with the ship on him," the NBA executive said. "It's everything everyone says they want to be about in the NBA, and then doesn't have the guts to try to make it work. As a player, he's got some deficiencies with his lack of ability to shoot and his size … If that guy is put in his right role, because he can pass and is an unbelievably relentless offensive rebounder, I think the guy can find a spot on a team. It's hard to say we want to be about this type of culture and then not give guys that totally embody that type of culture a chance."

He worried, though, that Kentucky will try to squeeze Travis into a role that doesn't suit him, such as playing him as a small forward in order to showcase him differently. Calipari insists that Travis will remain a big man.

And, in a sense, an old man.

He watches classic TV shows like "Seinfeld" and "The Office" rather than playing video games. Quickley and Washington say Travis hasn't converted them into regular viewers. When the team was over at Calipari's house for dinner recently, the coach was in front of the television watching the day's breakdown of the Supreme Court nomination battle.

"He walks in, and he and I have a 25-minute conversation about what's going on," Calipari said. "I have never had an 18-year-old talk to me in those terms. He's figured out that I'm into the politics of bringing people together, not separating them."

Calipari is enjoying this. "How about coaching a grown man? It's been great. You don't have to worry about him." He is having so much fun with it he now jokes that if it works out, "The NCAA will say it should not be done and it's against the rules."

That is not the direction the organization is going with player movement, though: The lean is toward more freedom, not less. Kentucky is not about to exit the business of recruiting elite high school talent, but with the NBA in the early stages of eliminating its age limit, Travis' experience at UK could lead the Wildcats to an entirely different brand of "one-and-done."

"I didn't want a pat on the back," Travis said. "I really wanted a situation where it was almost a blank canvas. They told me: 'You worked hard to accomplish all that stuff, but this is a totally new situation and we'll put you in uncomfortable spots and challenge you every day.' That's music to my ears, because that's exactly what I was looking for."

—

If making eye contact in conversation was one of the skills evaluated in the NBA's pre-draft process, then Reid Travis would have been a first-round pick. I once had a very pleasant, wide-ranging conversation with No. 2 overall pick Marvin Bagley in which he never once glanced in my direction. Through our 45-minute talk at Kentucky's Kraft Center, Travis looked at me with such searing intensity I feared he would burn through my retinas.

"Our dad's really big on that," Jonah Travis told me. "When we were younger and first starting to meet people of more influence, the first thing he made sure that we did was to shake a man's hand and look them directly in the eyes. It may sound archaic to some, but that's how many people judge how serious we are, how focused and locked into the conversation people are having with us."

For four years, Reid put that focus into improving as a player and succeeding as a student at Stanford, with a temporary interruption from competition in 2015-16 to rehabilitate his injury. When he decided to try something different, though — and when that something turned out to be basketball and graduate school at Kentucky — not everyone was willing to take that choice seriously.

Writing in The Athletic, accomplished journalist Phil Taylor declared, "If you're wondering what academic pursuits Lexington has to offer that Travis couldn't find at Stanford, well, you're not alone."

At Kentucky, Travis will study Sport Leadership in the university's department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion. Perhaps equally important, he will interact with an entirely different set of people, make those connections and establish himself in an entirely different part of the country. And he will expend the greatest amount of energy on trying to improve himself as a basketball player, making no apology for this.

"I don't think anyone should find anything negative with my decision," Travis said. "I went through a lot of conversations with people that maybe questioned it or didn't necessarily understand why I would give up a chance to get a graduate degree at Stanford. But the way I look at it, that's not off the table. Hopefully, in the near future, when I'm done playing, I do plan on trying to get a business degree somewhere. I would love go back to Stanford one day.

"My biggest thing is, your window to play basketball is so small. To chase that passion, that dream — your body can only play this game for so long. For me, that's the love that I have right now. That's the passion I'm chasing. I didn't transfer out of Stanford and not get my degree; that was one of the biggest goals for me. And then I had a year to kind of chase what I wanted to.

"A lot of my classmates that I finished with go on to work at Google, Facebook, YouTube, and they go do these great things and go across country they go work at these great companies. I kind of look at it as the same deal."

Reid fell in love with basketball when he was a little kid, maybe 6 or 7, he says, trying to keep up with his brother, three years older. He played football through high school and was recruited by the likes of Minnesota, Boston College, Iowa and Rutgers as a pro-style quarterback. As recently as August he visited his De La Salle High football practice and posted about the experience on Twitter.

His cousin Ross played hoops at Penn

State but switched to football after finishing his career in 2015 and now is a tight end for the red-hot Kansas City Chiefs. "I left that in high school," Reid said. Returning to football is not an option for him. He is playing his game, and will for as long as he can.

Kentucky is allowing Travis to experience basketball — what he calls "the love of my life" — in an entirely new way. This is a place "where everyone's just crazed on that, and focused on that, and loves the game as much as you do.

How John Calipari assembled a team full of fighters and where rival recruiters went wrong

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Oct. 11

What else to call it but a (bleep)-eating grin? That look John Calipari can't seem to wipe off his face lately — like he knows a secret and it's marvelous and it'll be even more so when the rest of the world finds out? Bleep. Eating. Grin.

Sure, it has something to do with the obscene collection of talent on his 2018-19 roster – 8 of 10 scholarship players are former five-star recruits – but the thing that really gets him giddy is their shared mentality. The gist of it: No days off.

"This group loves being in the gym," Calipari said. "They just love the game. They love getting better. They love competing. That's fun for them. Not, 'I can't wait until it's over so I can go.' That's not who they are."

But you don't just accidentally end up with a team full of blue-chippers who act more like blue-collars. It's what Calipari calls the Brandon Knight Culture, referring to the former star point guard whose commitment to the hard work behind the scenes helped drag an imperfect Kentucky team to the 2011 Final Four.

"Brandon Knight changed the direction of what we wanted," Calipari said. "If you don't sacrifice, you can't play here."

Which brings us back to that (bleep)-eating grin. He might finally have assembled an entire team of guys who buy into that mantra.

The Athletic recently asked every scholarship player on the roster two questions: The worst mistake another school made (without naming names) in recruiting them and the one thing Calipari said that sealed the deal. The responses were strikingly similar. In one way or another, almost all of them said rival recruiters erred in thinking they wanted to be coddled and Calipari impressed by promising them nothing but stiff challenge.

Here now, in their own words, the story of how Kentucky had the pick of the litter and chose only the pit bulls:

Make me work

Ashton Hagans (No. 12 overall, Class of 2018)

Biggest mistake: "Really, just telling me what I wanted to hear. Because I'm the type of guy who wants to go out there and work for it, not just have anything given to me, because I haven't had that when I was growing up. When other coaches were recruiting me, they were telling me, 'You'll have the ball in your hands the whole time. It's going to be your world and everybody is going to play around you.' That's not something I wanted. I wanted to hear that I'm going to have to work for it, compete for it, like I do daily here."

(Hagans first committed to Georgia and considered Georgia Tech, Florida State and Marquette before picking UK.)

What Cal said: "He didn't tell me one thing that I wanted to hear. He was telling me that I would have to work for it, not telling me the ball is going to be in my hands. When you come here, you've got the whole coaching staff on you. They're not going to let nothing go by. You're going to have to be in the gym to get what you want to get."

Immanuel Quickley (No. 22 overall, Class of 2018)

Biggest mistake: "[One coach] wasn't real with me, kind of told me what he thought I wanted to hear, but that's not what I wanted to hear. I wanted somebody who was going to tell the truth, and Coach Cal told me the truth. Telling me stuff like I'm going to take every shot and I'm going to be the guy, I didn't want to hear that."

(Quickley's other finalists were Kansas, Miami and Maryland.)

What Cal said: "I wanted to hear something about how it was going to be hard, somebody who was going to be real with me. Because when stuff gets tough, you want somebody who is behind your back telling you the truth, not someone who is going to pat you on the back. [Calipari] being real with me, being real transparent, that was the biggest reason for me to come to Kentucky."

Look into my eyes

PJ Washington (No. 15 overall, Class of 2017)

Biggest mistake: "I felt like they weren't telling me the truth. They weren't looking me in the eyes, just lying to me about this program, just saying, 'You don't need to go to Kentucky to be a successful basketball program,' stuff like that. But they were looking at their feet the whole time. They weren't looking in my eyes. A lot of [schools] were like that."

(Washington's other finalists were North Carolina and UNLV.)

What Cal said: "He was the only coach that told me I was going to have to come in and just work for everything. Everybody else said they had a spot for me already, they already told me my role and everything. But Cal said, 'You're going to have to come in here and create your own role, just come out here and work every day and give 110 percent.'"

Nick Richards (No. 18 overall, Class of 2017)

Biggest mistake: "They made a lot of mistakes. The biggest mistake was probably someone said they didn't want to talk to my mom. They only wanted to talk directly to me. I thought that was disrespectful."

(Richards' other finalists were Arizona and Syracuse.)

What Cal said: "My mom has always been honest with me and she always said that people who might not say what you like but they're being honest, those are the people to be around. And Cal has always been honest with me since the day I met him. That's why I committed here."

Be authentic

Keldon Johnson (No. 13 overall, Class of 2018)

Biggest mistake: "One college says something and then I hear the same thing from the next college. I'm just like, 'Is there any difference?' When I came here, it was different how they went about things. [Other school said], 'You'll come in and be the man, do X, Y and Z.' You'd hear that and just be like, 'Is that what I really want?' Then I come here and hear a whole different rap."

(Johnson's other finalists were Maryland, N.C. State and Texas.)

What Cal said: "Nothing was going to be given to me. He just told me, 'If you want it,

you have to get it here. Here, we're not going to promise you anything.' You definitely see that out there [in UK's practices now]. A war. A war on both ends. When you see us out there, you'd be like, 'Dang, are they really teammates?' And that's a great thing. No hard feelings. What happens on the court, stays on the court."

Quade Green (No. 26 overall, Class of 2017)

Biggest mistake: "Something [one school] said: He's not good enough. That came from multiple people, actually. That was a turn-off."

(Green's other finalists were Duke, Villanova, Syracuse and Temple.)

What Cal said: "He sits down, talks to you, speaks the realness – speaks the real to you and your family: what you need to do and how to do it. He's a professional. He's good at what he does, I'll say that. He's Italian, so he got that mode of talking and communicating with somebody that connects. He's a real Italian."

Tyler Herro (No. 37 overall, Class of 2018)

Biggest mistake: "[Saying], 'Why are you gonna go to Kentucky? You're just going to be another one of the guys who goes through their process. They don't really want you.' It really does backfire, because it's just them recruiting against Kentucky. If they're recruiting me, they should be worried just about me and them, not anybody else. They shouldn't be competing against a different school."

(Herro originally committed to Wisconsin, then considered Kansas, Villanova and Oregon before picking UK.)

What Cal said: "Nothing's given. You gotta go out and earn it. And I think with this group of guys here, I think he told every one of us that, because everybody is in the gym, everybody is trying to earn something they want. In practice, you see everybody competing. I've heard in the past, they had to make guys run to get them to compete, but once you tell us to go play, we're competing right away."

Get what I'm about

Reid Travis (No. 36 overall, Class of 2014)

Biggest mistake: "Going back to high school [Travis, a graduate transfer from Stanford, experienced a second recruitment this spring] it was not understanding me as a full person. I was somebody who was very focused on school, very focused on what my life after basketball was going to look like – as a 17-year-old kid, which is not necessarily normal. I think that's what drew me to Stanford early on is that they got that. Yes, I was making a basketball decision, wanted basketball to be great, but I was also looking 40 years down the road. Certain coaches didn't understand that and only preached basketball, basketball, basketball and didn't hit on a whole other aspect of my life that really kind of makes me whole."

What Cal said: "Just his whole approach: 'You're going to have to earn everything you get [and] I want to change a lot of things about you.' He broke me down and I loved it. I was humble enough to accept that, and that's what I was looking for. I had success on the college level [two-time All-Pac-12 player at Stanford] but he wasn't sitting here patting me on the back like, 'This is going to be the best year of college basketball you've had. You're going to be on a pedestal.' No, he told me, 'You're going to have to compete every day. It's going to be the toughest thing you've ever done. I'm going to push you in a way you've never been pushed.' I loved it. When I talked to him, he'd already watched a lot of my games on film and had a lot of specific things he wanted to change. I respected that, because it wasn't just looking at my stat sheet and saying, 'Just do that same thing for us and you're fine.' "

(Travis picked Kentucky over Villanova.)

EJ Montgomery (No. 9 overall, Class of 2018)

Biggest mistake: "One made everything sound a little bit too easy. It just wasn't going to be a challenge, and I wanted to get challenged every day. It was just like, 'Come in and do you.' "

(Montgomery originally committed to Auburn and considered Duke and North Carolina before picking the Cats.)

What Cal said: "It was going to be hard, we were going to work every day. That's something I wanted to do. I want to get better against all these guys. [Even as Calipari made the rare pitch to Montgomery that he was 'a need, not a want,' he stuck to his overall message.] He was still saying, 'You're going to have to work every day, compete every day.' "

Jemarl Baker (No. 73 overall, Class of 2017)

Biggest mistake: "Just not seeing my potential, not seeing how hard I worked behind the scenes, not seeing how passionate I am, not seeing how great I want to be."

(Baker originally committed to California and had interest in Arizona, Duke, Virginia and Oregon among others before picking Kentucky.)

What Cal said: "Just that it was going to be hard. He kept it real with me: I was going to compete against the best players in the world – or in college basketball – every single day. You can only get better from that. He said I'm going to have to compete, and I love to compete."

The takeaway: Somewhere, John Calipari is strutting around with a [bleep]-eating grin on his face.

Kentucky's John Calipari: Those skipping college for G League should have education guaranteed

By: Jeff Borzello | ESPN | Oct. 16

John Calipari said Tuesday he thinks prospects should be able to go to college after playing in the G League, and also believes players selected in the second round of the NBA draft should be able to return to college.

Calipari has maintained that players should be able to skip college for the NBA, but the Kentucky head coach is concerned too many high school student-athletes will be persuaded to go straight to the NBA or the G League.

And, borrowing from minor league baseball, he has a bold idea on how to fix the potential issue.

"I've got the solution," Calipari told ESPN on Tuesday. "The NBA, you want these kids in the G League, you want to do all this? Everyone that goes in the G League is guaranteed eight semesters of college education if you don't make it. You give them a signing bonus, you pay them. And then if they don't make it after two years, the NBA pays to have them on my campus. They have to sit out their first year, to prove they really want to be in college. So you can come to college, the NBA is gonna pay for it, for eight semesters. You come back, sit out a year to prove you really want to be in college, then you start playing and your clock starts."

Calipari added that if a player does go to college after fading out of the G League,

he must stay at least two years. Along with the required sit-out year, each player would have a minimum of six semesters in college before being able to enter the NBA draft.

In August, the NCAA adopted a new rule that allows undrafted players who attend the NBA combine and request an Undergraduate Advisory Committee evaluation to return to college.

Calipari thinks that protection should apply to players drafted in the second round, too.

"If a kid is picked in the second round, he doesn't have to go. He can go back to college," he said. "Everybody is telling him he's a first-round pick, and you slip to the second round, 'Nah, I'm going back.' If you're gonna let kids stay in the draft and then say they're coming back a week later after they don't get drafted, why not put it on the second round? Because the kids that went in the second round are pissed. They all were told they were gonna go in the first. Do we care about the kids or is this about the NBA or is this about college?"

Along with the rule regarding undrafted players, the NCAA adopted a number of rules recommended by a committee led by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. College players and elite high school players-- the latter being determined by USA Basketball-- are also allowed to be represented by agents. High school players can be represented beginning July 1 before their senior year in high school, pending the end to the one-and-done rule.

Calipari thinks the rule changes will dissuade more prospects from going to college -- and fears that the floodgates could open and we will see 100-200 players per year skipping college for the G League.

"If they're trying to encourage them to go to the G League, I think it's wrong," Calipari said. "Instead of encouraging academic success and learning and a life of learning, just go chase basketball. They can't do that at 14, 15, 16 years old.

"More than half the G League is going to be high school kids that are trying to make it. I hope I'm wrong. I absolutely hope I'm wrong."

He said he continues to get feedback that the NCAA doesn't mind if large numbers of high school basketball players don't ever attend college.

"They're going to look back at this time in basketball, and this is a pivotal point of where this thing goes. This time we're sitting in right now. And I want to make sure I'm on the right side of history," Calipari said. "What's been going on right now, you have people that basically are saying, 'They don't belong on this college campus.' Who doesn't belong on a college campus? Why don't they belong? 'Well, they don't want to be in school.' I didn't want to be in school! Why are you saying that? Is that that ivory tower thing, where you're looking down and seeing how people are dressed and how they walk and saying they don't belong on a college campus? Drives me nuts."

While Calipari acknowledged that there are three or four kids every class capable of skipping college for the NBA, he fears dozens more kids will also try, and "they will be roadkill." Moreover, because they were sold on skipping college from early on in high school, their academics will be deemed secondary.

"My thing is, if you encourage high school sophomores or juniors not to worry about academics, you won't be on a college campus anyway, you don't belong on a college campus. They're told that stuff," Calipari said. "The minute there's pushback, 'Ah, I'm going to the NBA anyway.'"

As a result, prospects who flame out of the G League after a couple of years will be left in a difficult situation-- leading back to Calipari's original suggestion of allowing them to go back to college. If Calipari is right and 100-plus prospects skip college for the G League every year, he believes more than 93 percent will be out of the league within two years.

"The 93 percent that don't make it," Calipari said. "Give me the demographic of that group. We really want to do that to those kids? I'm not. I'm standing on a mountaintop saying no."

"What you're doing is wrong and I'm on the other side," he later added. "And 10 years from now, if you do this and all these kids are ruined and all their families that had a chance at a better life, maybe not through sports but through education, why would we not use sports to encourage kids to be more educated? Because of eight kids, you're gonna throw out everything? Eliminate the summer. What's happened with this FBI probe, we're changing evaluation periods? Don't tell me we're gonna put them all in a setting and we have three days to figure out who's who. You know who you don't care about by doing that? The kids. You're trying to make this look like you're doing something. Stop."

How Kentucky's 2011 loss to Connecticut helped mold Ashton Hagans

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Oct. 18

Almost seven years after Kemba Walker and Connecticut took down Kentucky in the Final Four, the Wildcats may reap an unexpected benefit from that loss.

In Georgia, there was a 11-year-old basketball player watching Walker will the Huskies to 11 consecutive wins from the No. 9 seed in the Big East Tournament to eventual national champions. Now Ashton Hagans will look to apply some of the lessons he learned watching Walker to his own college career as a freshman point guard at UK.

"I just fell in love with his game when I was young and that's who I was watching like daily," Hagans said. "... I just love the passion he left on the court. He had attitude at some points, but he just left everything out on the court and he wanted to compete."

For Hagans, the passion and competitiveness he saw from Walker have manifested in a different playing style.

Walker's biggest contributions came on offense, averaging 23.5 points and 4.5 assists per game in his final season at UConn. At least early in his freshman season, Hagans' biggest impact figures to come on defense and as a pass-first point guard.

"That [fandom] kind of baffled me too, because I don't think Kemba played defense," Hagans' father, Marvin Hagans, said with a laugh. "... I just think the moves and the quickness, things like that Ashton loved."

Years after watching Walker's run to the national title, Hagans began to try to establish his own reputation as a high-major basketball prospect.

But with his profile lower than some classmates, Hagans knew he needed to do something different to carve out his own reputation. With many of the top players at his position trying to make their name by outscoring opponents, Hagans followed his father's advice in trying to shut them down.

"Me, his step-dad, his mom, his stepmom, uncles, we used to all challenge him," Marvin Hagans said. "If you lock this person up, we'll get you the Jordans you want or something like that. We would just use stuff like that as measuring sticks and challenging. Then on top of that, he's very competitive."

That work paid off with a five-star rating and decision to move from the 2019 to 2018 class and enroll at UK this summer.

It also developed him into the perfect piece for John Calipari's loaded roster, which already included two other five-star point guards before Hagans reclassified.

"I couldn't care less about scoring like that," Hagans said. "I've got playmakers on my team now. I haven't really played with nobody like that and I haven't really played with a good big, so it's just like why not give the ball up? And I can just play defense the whole time. That's something I'd rather do.

"... A lot of people don't like contact, don't like nobody in them. That's just what I want to do: frustrate them. Once my teammates see me on defense turning it up, it's just something the energy that brings. Everybody on the court is just like, 'Pick it up, pick it up.'"

Hagans' defense was so effective at times during UK's August exhibition games in the Bahamas, UK's professional opponents tried to take him out of the game.

A UK coach would shout at Hagans to get on the ball on defense, but opposing guards would quickly swing it up the court when they saw Hagans coming.

"It really, really affects other teams," freshman wing Keldon Johnson said. "It really affects them. You can just tell on a player's face, they're like 'Ah, we don't want the ball when he's guarding us.'"

Calipari sees a little bit of Tyler Ulis in Hagans' defense already, though he cautions Hagans' youth means he has not yet mastered the ability to play angles and guard off the ball in the way Ulis did as a sophomore at Kentucky or DeAndre Liggins did as a junior on Calipari's first UK team.

That room for growth does not mean Hagans won't be a difference make from day one on defense though.

"Ashton is a pit bull mauler on the ball," Calipari said.

"He's not backing down to anybody," sophomore forward PJ Washington said. "That's great to have a point guard like that. He's always trying to steal the ball, always trying to get into somebody and disrupt them. That's what coach Cal loves. That's what great point guards do."

Immanuel Quickley, Hagans' classmate and fellow Class of 2018 five-star point guard, saw Hagans' defensive intensity firsthand in multiple AAU battles.

No stranger to defense himself, Quickley recognized a kindred spirit when he matched up against Hagans on the court.

"A lot of guys, they're just trying to get 30, but they're going to give up 30 too," Quickley said. "With us, we were trying to get 30 and hold each other to zero. So, when that happens it's a dog fight from the start to the finish."

Hagans, who originally committed to Georgia in high school before reopening his recruitment as Mark Fox's team struggled last year, still lacks some of the buzz of some of the country's other top freshman due to his late move to the 2018 class.

Calipari and his staff left the Bahamas urging Hagans to be more assertive on offense — he took just 15 shots in four games and missed both his 3-point attempts — but Hagans reported growing confidence in his shot in a one-on-one interview with the Courier Journal in September.

"For some reason everybody swears up and down he can't shoot the ball, and that is not the truth," Marvin Hagans said. "He just a Jason Kidd-type of guard. He'd rather pass than to shoot. He's so unselfish.

With so many weapons around him at Kentucky, Hagans will have no trouble finding places to distribute the ball, but if his offensive game grows to match his defensive prowess it would be little surprise to see him playing for an NBA team a year from now.

First though, he will have to carve out his spot on a loaded Kentucky roster. Then he can work on following Walker's footsteps.

"Even if I come off the bench, I'm here with my brothers through it all. I'm just trying to fight for a position," Hagans said. "If I don't start, I'm just going to bring what I can put on the table and just go from there."

Letter from Home: A father's message to Kentucky's Tyler Herro

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Oct. 19

These are "Letters from Home," and shooting guard Tyler Herro gets the latest piece of correspondence from Milwaukee, where his father, Chris, is glad to deliver some good mail for a change.

Dear Tyler,

I've wondered more than once whether you really understood what you were getting yourself into. First, when you changed your mind about staying home to play for our Wisconsin Badgers. And again when you decided instead to step onto the biggest stage in college basketball at Kentucky.

"Are you sure that's what you want to do?" Looking back on it now, knowing the young man that your mom and I raised, it's silly we even had to ask. But as someone who still thinks of you as the sharpest-shooting second-grader at the YMCA and sometimes wants to call you by your childhood nickname, "Bing," my instinct is to protect that little boy.

That's what I did when the hate mail started showing up at your high school. It killed me to know you read the first few letters from angry Wisconsin fans before I could tell your coach to start filtering anything addressed to you through me. Our home state, which had loved you for a long time, turned on you in a hurry. It was bad enough that there were hecklers at every away game, so I tried to make sure you never saw the worst of those letters. I was afraid they would crush you.

One guy thought it was OK to write to my 17-year-old son: "You're making the biggest mistake of your life. You let the whole state down. You're just another kid that's going to sit the bench at Kentucky." We can laugh at that bleepity bleep-bleeper now, because of how wrong he's about to be. And I can share that nasty note with you now because I know it won't break you. Far from it.

Turns out you knew exactly what you were getting into when you decommitted from the Badgers, our family's favorite team, and walked away from what had been your dream school for a while. Dreams grow just like the people dreaming them, though, and with every camp where you thrived against the top players in the country, I could see your dream getting a little bigger. Your ceiling just kept getting higher.

The easy thing would've been to stay here and be the homegrown hero, but it takes courage to say out loud, "All due respect to Wisconsin, a very good program, I want more," knowing the heat you'd take for that. You refused to put limits on your dream. "I want to play for a blue blood," you said. "I want to play in the NBA." You've got some nerve, kid, and I'm damn proud of it.

Remember that night at the hotel in Lexington after our first day visiting Kentucky, when you texted me from the other room and asked what I thought? Remember what I wrote back? "It doesn't matter what I think, my man. It matters how you feel and whether you're up to the task to work your ass off, because this isn't going to be easy playing with some of the best kids in the country." Just like when the game is on the line, you didn't hesitate: "I want to come here."

So we just needed to let Kenny Payne and John Calipari know the next morning, before their game against Vermont. Remember what Coach Cal asked you? What changed your mind about Wisconsin? I'll never forget your answer.

"I want people in the gym with the same goals as me, and that's to compete for a national championship and get to the NBA," you told Cal. "I don't want to be the best player in the gym. I want to be challenged by some of the best players in the country." That still makes me smile. When I heard that, I knew deep down that, yes, you did know what you were getting into – and you embraced it. You had a direction and a plan. That's all a father can hope for.

Well, actually, there are a couple of other things that I hope you'll remember as you begin life on your own.

One, please take a break from the grind every now and then to enjoy the moment just a little. I'm not sure Cal and Kenny believed me when I told them you would

be in the gym more than anybody they've ever coached, but now they see you in there at 1, 2 or 3 in the morning. (That's why you and Keldon Johnson are perfect roommates.) But don't forget to have fun. Don't forget to stop and appreciate how grand this dream is that you're living – and how few people will ever get to experience it. Your old dad still wonders what might've been if he hadn't blown out his knee as a senior in high school, so never take this game for granted.

Second, and more important, always be respectful. No matter how popular you get or how much success you have, stay humble, be the same person and remember where you came from.

Strive every day to be the kid who watched the McDonald's All-American selection show thinking he'd done enough to make the cut, only to find out on a national TV broadcast that he hadn't. The kid who was pissed off for exactly one minute before grabbing his bag and driving straight to the gym. The kid who takes every outside doubt and turns it into inner drive.

That's who you are. You're my kid. The kid who, when Dad asks if you know what you're getting yourself into, simply says with a wink and a grin, "Watch this."

We love you, Ty.
Dad, Mom, Austin and Myles

John Calipari: G League contracts will make Kentucky basketball better

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Oct. 21

To hear John Calipari tell it, the G League's move to offer perspective one-and-done players $125,000 one-year contracts will be good for Kentucky.

"If it's what they say, three or five guys and that's it, I don't think it affects us," Calipari said after Kentucky's Blue-White scrimmage Sunday. "As a matter of fact, probably makes us better. The kids that come here are kids that want the competition and want to get better. They're not going somewhere so that they only gotta shoot all the balls. (Those players) don't come here.

"I think this may even separate us some, so I'm not worried about it."

The three Kentucky players made available for interviews after the scrimmage (sophomore Nick Richards and freshmen Tyler Herro and EJ Montgomery) agreed with Calipari's assessment, saying they still would have come to Kentucky if presented with the opportunity to be paid for a year in the NBA's developmental league.

"They treat each other like professionals over there, so if you're not ready, you're not ready," Richards said. "They're just going to move you down to the bench and not really care about you. In college they actually try to develop you and actually care about the kids."

"Might as well come to college, have a good experience, build your brand, play in front of thousands and thousands of people," Herro said. "... College basketball at the end of the day is the best thing. Come March Madness, that's the biggest stage it can get."

How many players will qualify? Who will determine which players are eligible? How will they be placed on rosters? How will the veteran G League players react to their presence?

Perhaps foreshadowing Thursday's announcement of the program, Calipari has railed against the idea that high-level recruits should be pushed to the G League in order to clean up college basketball in the wake of the FBI's investigation into the sport during many of his public appearances in recent weeks.

Calipari's argument is that players who don't pan out will be left as "roadkill" in the G League as opposed to enjoying the other benefits going to college can bring.

"My concern comes back to I want to know what happens to the kids that you've encouraged not to go to college if they fail," he said Sunday. "What are you going to do for them? That's my whole thing. What is it going to do to 8th and 9th and 10th graders? Are you going to have a whole wave of those kids that think, 'I don't need school I'm going to go to the G league.'"

"People when they come to college, they get a lot better," Montgomery said. "It's just more of a stage. ... I made my choice to come here so I could get better every day."

Indeed each of Kentucky's players made the choice to sign with a program where they knew practices would be filled with other five-star prospects and the available minutes might be fewer thanks to a 10-deep roster of former top-50 recruits.

There are legitimate reasons for top-level prospects to choose programs other than Kentucky for a variety of reasons, but avoiding competition is the one Calipari most often cites.

He thinks many players who would take the G League route might fall into that category.

"We weren't getting those guys anyway," Calipari said. "They weren't going to come here, the guys that would do that. The guys that come here, they come here for a reason."

'He's crazy': How Keldon Johnson became who he is, and the motor that will drive Kentucky

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Oct. 23

Keldon Johnson talks so much trash to his own teammates, burrows so deep under their skin during practices, comes so close to setting off fist fights inside the Joe Craft Center, John Calipari had to create a system of "attitude points" just to turn down the volume on his full-blast freshman wing.

"I think he's crazy," says Kentucky teammate PJ Washington, half laughing and half looking over his shoulder. "Like, literally crazy."

"He's wild," says fellow freshman Immanuel Quickley, choosing his words carefully with the madman sitting less than 20 yards away. "I don't think he's actually mentally unstable. He's just always hyped. It could be 5 a.m. and he's yelling."

Or it could be the 2018 McDonald's All-American game and Johnson's talking about wanting to "dominate and kill" in a typically low-intensity exhibition. Because being a five-star recruit and the No. 13 overall prospect in the class simply isn't good enough. Someone had the audacity to rank a dozen other players ahead of Johnson – and four of those devils were going to Duke, led by the nation's No. 1 recruit, R.J. Barrett.

Kentucky freshman EJ Montgomery was there that week, too, trying to decide between the Blue Devils and the Wildcats. Shortly after meeting Johnson for the first time, Montgomery watched with amazement as he dunked on a guy and screamed in his face ... at an all-star practice. "He's got that dog-eat-dog mentality, and I love it," says Montgomery, who decided almost on the spot that he wanted to play with someone like that.

Someone who, when the score was close at the end of the McDonald's game and Barrett got the ball, had just one thought: Let me at him. Johnson locked down Barrett twice in the waning seconds to secure a victory. No. 1 player, his ass.

"Why not me?" Johnson wonders aloud now. "Why am I not in that spot?"

This is the question that drives Keldon Johnson and is in turn why Calipari tells him, "Your motor and enthusiasm are going to drive us." Oh, sure, the coach is taking measures to harness all that energy and unleash it on someone other than his own teammates, but make no mistake: Calipari loves it. See, Johnson is the good kind of crazy. Every championship contender needs one of those wild-eyed guys the other side rightly fears because it looks like he fears nothing.

But Johnson wasn't always this way, and Calipari wasn't always so impressed.

"I think I made him like that," says Johnson's oldest brother, Kyle.

Their father, Chris, can still hear the soundtrack of the boys' childhood playing on a loop in his mind. The bouncing basketball out back of their South Hill, Virginia, home. The chirp of Kyle telling Keldon he can't keep up. The thud of Keldon, five years younger, hitting the deck after a shove. The swoosh of the door swinging open, the howl of yet another defeat in their lopsided sibling rivalry.

"Kyle always pushed him around," Chris recalls. Middle brother Kaleb, now a senior at Georgetown, tried unsuccessfully to play peacemaker. "Keldon would come in the house crying. I would say, 'Go back outside. Toughen up.' Eventually, he stopped coming in to complain. Then when Keldon was about 12, my oldest came in the house hollering, 'Keldon just hit me in my mouth!' I said, 'Oh, good, now go on back outside. Toughen up.'"

Remembering the day the tables turned, Dad cracks up laughing. Around the sixth or seventh grade, Keldon had a physical and emotional growth spurt. On his way to becoming the 6-foot-6, 211-pound poster-dunking, lockdown-defending, bicep-flexing menace he is today, kid brother blew right past Kyle, who stands "just" 6-2. The switch flipped during a fairly typical game of 21: Kyle backed him down under the basket and threw an elbow to the ribs. Keldon stayed on his feet this time, though, and slugged him square in the jaw.

"That sure surprised me," Kyle says. "I was very outspoken. I don't hold my words when I'm playing. I'm loud and aggressive like he is now. But back then, he was just a little baby. I'd tell him, 'Stop being a punk.' I guess he got the message."

"After that," Chris says, "Keldon ruled the roost."

Both father and brother had helped teach him never to back down from a challenge, so they shouldn't have been surprised by what happened when Kentucky came calling a few years later. But Dad was. They'd taught him never to let anyone elbow him out of the way, so they shouldn't have worried that he would get shoved aside on a roster full of NBA prospects. But Dad did.

"My son is not going to Kentucky," Chris declared last August when the Wildcats finally offered him a scholarship during a visit to campus. They were a little late to the party. "They were a lot late," his dad says, and because of that, "I wanted him to go to Maryland or N.C. State," schools that were both within a three-hour drive of home and had been recruiting him aggressively for months before Calipari got around to it.

"It took me a minute to say, 'Let's do this.' We were probably the last school recruiting him," Calipari admitted a year later, after Johnson dazzled in an exhibition game against a top-level Serbian professional team in the Bahamas. By then, UK's coach was breathless in his praise — "If there's five better players than him in the country, you gotta tell me who they are" — but in the summer of 2017, Chris Johnson was not feeling the love.

The Terrapins had hired an assistant from Georgetown, who'd coached Kaleb and pursued Keldon for a long time. "They had been there since Day One. They had really, really persuaded me that was the place for him," Chris says. "And you know how people say Coach Cal is crooked and don't care about the players. Well, it was all lies, because Coach Cal cares probably more about his players than anybody." But Chris and Rochelle Johnson didn't know that yet, and they were worried. They prayed a lot together, and Chris did more than that.

"I put up a big fight," he says. "I put up a big, big, big fight. Really big." He didn't hide his skepticism from Calipari. "We bumped heads. We really bumped heads, because I have a strong personality and Cal has a strong personality. He thinks if you're a great player, you should be at Kentucky, but I'm thinking, 'There's a lot of other great players that went to the NBA that didn't go to Kentucky, so you're not doing me no favor.' I think he appreciated me as a father, because I really stood up to him. He knew my only concern was what's right for my son."

Here's the thing about Calipari, though: Once he's on board with an idea, no matter how long it might take him to get there, he cannot let it go. Won't let it go. Not even a stubborn father will deter him.

"Cal called me one night," Chris says, "and said, 'I really want to coach your son. Let me ask you: Does your son really want me to coach him?'" If this was a prize fight, that comment was the blow just before the knockout punch. Dad was wobbling. He and Keldon talked deep into the night, weighing the pros and cons, airing his fears and concerns. But he already knew he'd lost.

Johnson played summer ball with grassroots legend Boo Williams' team on the Nike circuit, and Boo knows two things about as well as anyone in the game: elite talent and how it thinks. He had told Chris Johnson that if Keldon ever visited Kentucky, "It's over, because I know Keldon, and he will love Kentucky." He did, and on the night it all came to a head, the son pleaded with his father.

"He said, 'Dad, I always trust you. Please trust me, because Kentucky is where I want to go. If you want me to go to N.C. State or Maryland, that's where I'll go. But if you want me to be happy, then I want to go to Kentucky,'" Chris remembers. "From there, it was a no-brainer. I wanted him to go to a school that wanted him – that really wanted him and pursued him – but he didn't care if Kentucky came in late. He said, 'Once I get there, I'm going to be one of the best players there because I'm going to work harder than anybody.'"

Kentucky, ranked No. 2 in the preseason Associated Press poll, has yet to play a real game, but early returns indicate Johnson was right. On a team with eight five-star recruits, Johnson started all four exhibition games in the Bahamas in August, averaging 13.3 points and 4.8 rebounds. He scored 20 points in the Blue-White scrimmage on Sunday night. He's considered the Cats' best pro prospect, projected to be picked No. 8 overall in ESPN's latest 2019 mock NBA Draft.

"Well," Chris Johnson says, cackling before conceding, "I love Kentucky. I'm so glad I gave in, because you can just hear it in his voice when you talk to him: He's happy there. He talks about his teammates like they're family. He loves Coach Cal. We can see now that it's really a great fit and a great journey for Keldon. He will be able to see things and do stuff that he wouldn't be able to do at another college."

Johnson's parents made the trip to the Bahamas and got to see Calipari interact with their son up close, and Chris came away embarrassed that he'd ever bought into the negative narrative about Kentucky's coach. "He has the team giving back to kids like me, when I was growing up poor, giving them shoes and washing their feet (as part of the Samaritan's Feet charity that Calipari has been involved with for years)," says Chris. "They're always doing something in the community, and I feel blessed for my son to be a part of it."

Keldon Johnson's dad thought he was crazy for picking the Wildcats. The Wildcats are pretty sure Johnson is crazy now that he's here. But everybody seems pleased with the way this crazy story is working out.

"You knew before I knew. How?" Calipari recently asked his new star. "He said, 'Because I knew I was good enough and I knew what I would do here.' And I said, 'Well, you're doing it. You're doing it.'"

He has to change his game and lead a team. UK transfer built to handle the load

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Hearld-Leader | Oct. 31

He has changed teams and changed conferences. He needs to adjust to new teammates, new coaches and a new system. A college graduate, he must relate to freshmen and sophomores. He's being asked to change his playing style and lose weight. Then there's the culture shock associated with moving from the West Coast to the Bluegrass, from Stanford and its reputation as one of the world's top academic institutions to Kentucky and, as we're reminded before every home game, "the greatest tradition in the history of college basketball."

Oh yeah, and he's also expected to lead Kentucky to a national championship by providing the kind of veteran leadership its teams often lack.

Has any player ever faced a greater challenge than Reid Travis does in the 2018-19 season?

"When you put it in that perspective, it does sound like a big load," his father, Nate Travis, said recently.

But the elder Travis and others say the challenge is not too big.

As paradoxical as it might sound, Travis has been adjusting to new circumstances and leading for a long time. From middle school to high school to Stanford and now to Kentucky. He changed AAU teams after his sophomore year of high school.

Quarterback of the high school football team. Three-year captain of the high school basketball team.

"He was always the kid they looked up to in the community," his father said of Reid's upbringing in Minneapolis. "So a lot of things come naturally. I'm sure he does it without giving it a thought."

'The show'

Here's a question: Do the expectations of the Big Blue Nation translate into pressure?

"Not too much," Travis said this past summer. He cited his three seasons as captain of Stanford's teams as good preparation.

But, of course, Stanford and Kentucky are as different as Silicon Valley and the Bourbon Trail. This difference is not lost on Travis.

"I'm in a place now where basketball is in the center," he said. "People love Kentucky basketball. Everywhere I go people want pictures and autographs.

"When I was at Stanford, it was a little more toned down. You have Olympians and you have people starting the next great company. Those are the ones that have the celebrity. So I felt like the small fish when I was on that campus. Then you kind of switch it up and come to Kentucky where you are the main attraction. You are the show."

Unlike several of his UK teammates, Travis does not play video games. He said his parents encouraged he and his siblings to go outside and play rather than sit in front of a screen.

Nor does Travis share his teammates' fondness for trash talking.

"He's into the books," Quade Green said. "Hey, he's a school guy. He loves school. That's his DNA."

Not that Travis finds it difficult to relate to his UK teammates.

"Of course, he's a lot more mature," Keldon Johnson said. "He's a lot older. He's just us, but older. He still jokes around with us. It's not like he doesn't talk to us."

Some of his UK teammates have given Travis a nickname, the universal sign of acceptance. They call him "Old Head."

Travis had been on both sides of this age difference. As a freshman at Stanford, he learned from older teammates. Later, as the captain, he tutored incoming freshmen.

When it comes to leadership, Tennessee Coach Rick Barnes dismissed the importance of shared interests. The leader and his followers do not need to bowl or go to the movies together, he said.

"I don't think you have to hang out with guys," Barnes said. "I don't think that matters. He'll figure out what he needs to do because the most important thing in leadership is transparency."

'One great pickup'

At SEC Media Day, Travis said the biggest adjustment he had to make was losing weight. He came to Kentucky at about 260 pounds, and has trimmed down to about 235. This has helped his transition from a power player to a more versatile player with face-the-basket skills.

Not so coincidentally, scouts advised Travis to become a better perimeter player when he entered his name in this year's NBA Draft and went through the pre-draft process. During UK's August trip to the Bahamas, he acknowledged sometimes reverting to a power game.

"He's a really good low-post player," Mississippi State Coach Ben Howland said of Travis. "He's a real problem down low. . . . so he's going to be a real load for anybody in our league to contend with. That's one great pickup for Kentucky to get him late."

It hasn't been a seamless transition. In the first game in the Bahamas, Travis looked like a player still searching to find a comfortable niche. UK Coach John Calipari said Travis reverted to gathering himself into a crouch before trying to explode to the basket.

"It's really a transition from the way I've played my whole career as far as more of a bully-ball system, putting the ball down and trying to get into people's chests," Travis said after that game. "Now, they're asking me to go up and catch lobs, get blocks and just run the court as fast as I can. . . . I reverted back to some old habits."

After the game, Calipari good-naturedly teased Travis about his play.

"'Reid, it was like you were a freshman,'" Calipari said he told Travis. "First time out. You can't believe this environment.' But, I said, 'You're going to be fine.'"

Travis showed steady progress in the Bahamas. He averaged a double-double in the four games. He even made two of three three-point shots in the fourth and final game. He then made his only attempt from beyond the arc in the Blue-White Game.

"That was a process I started two years ago to getting more comfortable on the perimeter," he said.

Pressure to lead?

Rene Pulley, a family friend, said that the affinity to prepare creates confidence that Travis can meet the challenge this season presents.

"Honestly, what's being asked of him is only fair," Pulley said. "And I really do believe Reid is up to the challenge. He's been mentally prepared for this for a couple years."

Travis has been pointing to the NBA for several years. Pulley described getting a degree from Stanford as Travis' way to thanking Stanford for the opportunity to be challenged in the classroom and on the court.

After entering this year's NBA Draft and deciding it would be best to improve as a player in another season of college basketball, Travis decided to transfer to Kentucky. Of course, UK has produced 19 lottery picks in Calipari's time as coach.

"It was a blessing that Coach Cal said there was a spot for me, and if I wanted to come, it would be a great fit," Travis said.

Pulley acknowledged the challenge that Travis faces.

"He has to be more mentally strong and prepared to accept the pressure of going to Kentucky," he said before adding, "which is damned near going to the NBA."

Pulley described UK as the "perfect opportunity" for Travis and his younger teammates. They can help each other.

"He doesn't have to do everything for these kids," Pulley said of Travis. "It's not like Calipari went out there and got a bunch of third-graders that are playing intramural basketball."

Letter from home: A mother's message to EJ Montgomery

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Oct. 31

These are "Letters from Home," and 6-foot-10 McDonald's All-American forward EJ Montgomery gets a dispatch from Marietta, Ga., where his mother, Glenda, a former ballplayer and junior-college coach, wants to make sure he hasn't forgotten to follow through on that jump shot.

Dear EJ,

Keep your hand in the cookie jar, remember? Not long after you took the first steps of your life toward a basketball in my team's gym, we started teaching you how to finish your shot: flick that hand forward as the ball leaves your fingertips and keep going like you're reaching for a sweet snack. Now look at you, Cookie Monster.

You got Coach Cal talking about Anthony Davis and these Kentucky fans dreaming of what their Wildcats might do with a big man who can shoot it like you. You kept your hand in the cookie jar, son, and now you're going to be the best ball player in the whole family. I cried when your sister Brittni played her first game at Virginia Tech and when Brandy played her first game at Auburn, and there I was with tears in my eyes again the first time I saw you in that iconic blue-and-white uniform.

Our baby is all grown up now. You've always had an old soul, but I'll never forget all those nights you'd coming running in the house sobbing because your big sisters used their height advantage to beat you on the hoop in our driveway. "Again?" I'd say, and you would just cry and cry — not because you were sad, but because you were mad. Their competitive fire rubbed off on you, and we knew it was just a matter of time.

By the sixth grade, you'd shot up tall enough to look 6-foot-3 Brittni in her eyes, and that's when the tables turned. I believe your sisters stopped playing you soon after. Your game and body were just beginning to grow, but your heart was already big enough to make us proud.

In the fourth grade, one of your little teams was up by a lot, maybe 20 or 30 points in the second half, and you picked up your fourth foul. I was screaming, "Don't foul! Don't foul! You'll have to come out of the game!" So what did you do? Fouled almost immediately. Afterward, I asked, "Son, why would you do that? It looked like you did it intentionally." And you had. "I wanted my teammates on the bench to play." Well, that shut me up. Your father and I just smiled and thought, OK, that's a pretty great answer.

You've been full of great answers all your life, Efrem Jr., and you've made your father mighty glad he gave you his name.

EJ with his proud mother, Glenda.

In the sixth grade, you used to tag along with me to work at the Boys & Girls Club in Fort Pierce, Fla., which was not in the greatest part of town and served a number of underprivileged children. You loved it there, helping me teach those little kids to hoop. But then one of your really good friends asked a tough question: "Aren't you afraid to go over there where your mom works? Aren't those a bunch of bad kids?" I wondered how you would answer, and I beamed when I found out: "Why would you say that? You've never met them. You don't know them. They're great kids."

Son, you cannot imagine the good it does to a mother's heart to find out that her child has learned kindness and empathy – and that he has, at such a young age, found the courage to challenge even his friends about rushing to judgment. That gets harder to do as you grow up, maybe never harder than in the peer-pressure-cooker of college, but I pray that you'll hold tight to those convictions. I hope that you'll always love, honor and trust God. Remember the foundations we established here in our home: stay humble, work for everything, respect others and when things get harder, you go harder.

People are wondering now how you'll handle everything that comes with being at Kentucky, the spotlight, the pressure, the competition. They see PJ Washington, Reid Travis and Nick Richards, all McDonald's All-American post players just like you (but with more college experience), and ask where your minutes are going to come from. Will you get frustrated?

We know better. We've been training you for this all your life. It's why we always played you up, against guys three years older, in travel ball. It's why we sent you to Montverde Academy to start your high school career, so you could be on a team – and fighting for minutes – with guys like Ben Simmons, the No. 1 pick in the draft. What's a big arena to the kid who played for a high school national championship at Madison Square Garden?

When I put it like that, I shouldn't have been surprised that you passed on easier paths to playing time and stardom and chose Kentucky, but I was. Pleasantly surprised. Given an option, you chose the hard road because of where it leads.

The goal, of course, is the NBA. We know Coach Cal and Kenny Payne will take care of the basketball part of that dream, but I wanted to leave you with one last piece of motherly advice as you prepare for what's next: Pay close attention in that communication class of yours. I know you're extremely shy — how else could such a tall kid blend into the crowd at school? — and you'd rather not talk to the media. Your dad and I laugh when we see big group photos and you're hiding in the back. We watched you spot the reporters on your way out of the locker room at Montverde and duck into a corner until they were gone.

But we also know that away from the spotlight, you love to laugh and joke and have fun. Don't be afraid to let your light shine, EJ. Soon, the world is going to want to know who you are. That's an answer you should be proud to give. We most certainly are.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Brittni and Brandy

P.S. Keep your hand in the cookie jar.

Letter from home: A mother's message to Kentucky's Immanuel Quickley

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Nov. 6

These are "Letters from Home," and 6-foot-3 McDonald's All-American guard Immanuel Quickley has mail from Havre de Grace, Md., where his mother, Nitrease, a high school English teacher and former college hooper herself at Morgan State, prays that he will always dare to be different – and get a haircut soon.

Dear Immanuel,

We've called you Manny-man and Bud at times over the years. People also love to use your initials, IQ, which didn't happen by accident. But I prefer your given name, Immanuel, because of what it means: "God with us." He always is, and I didn't want you ever to forget that.

You're probably wondering why I'm writing again, since we covered a lot of this in that letter I tucked inside your suitcase when you left for Lexington this summer. But when The Athletic asked if there was anything else I wanted to say to my little boy as he begins life as a man, you know I couldn't resist.

So I'll repeat myself some – we can all use a regular reminder to live our lives according to Matthew 6:33 and Seek ye first the kingdom of God – but I'll also use this opportunity to share some of the countless times you've made your mother smile. They asked me when was the first time I could remember being proud of you for something, and the truth is I couldn't remember a time I wasn't.

The first time you brushed your teeth, played a piano recital, blessed our food, played drums at church, led a prayer in front of the congregation, played the saxophone in the school band, made the principal's honor roll or wrote in your fifth-grade yearbook that you wanted to be a basketball player and an eye doctor when you grow up, there I was with a heart full of joy. But never more so than when you had to come up with an idea for a senior project at The John Carroll School.

Some of your classmates made it about themselves, but I challenged you, like always, to make it matter. So you decided to give a free basketball camp for the kids at your old middle school, planning and organizing (with a little help from Mom, of course) and rounding up coaches and teachers to join you. When the big day came, you didn't make a token appearance, as sometimes happens at these things. No, you spent real time and had meaningful interactions with those kids, showing them you cared and sharing with them your wisdom.

The smiles on their faces said those memories are going to last a lifetime. I know I'll never forget.

We've been in church every time the doors were open since you were a baby, Immanuel, but what we do out in the world ultimately defines our faith. Now, don't get me wrong, when I saw you send a tweet asking for church recommendations in Lexington as soon as you arrived, I said, "That's my guy!" (And hey, now you have a place to sneak away from the stress of basketball and play the drums.)

But you're already living the best advice I can give you: Treat everyone you meet like the most important person in the world. I know how quickly the thrill and flattery of fans asking for an autograph or a picture can wear off, and that it can sometimes seem overwhelming or like a chore, but always take time for people. And when you're with them, be present and sincere and kind and interested in them. Make people feel special, because people matter and you never know who you're talking to.

That's really all I've got, son. You don't need my help with the basketball. You never have.

Remember when I tried to turn you into a piano player and delay your athletic career? Ha! Fail and fail. Let's be real: Most parents try to fulfill our own dreams through our kids, and since I'd always regretted not learning piano, I said, "By golly, my child is going to play." And you did. And you were so good! But from the time you could pick up a couple of spoons and find something to bang on, you were a drummer at heart. To this day, my little porcelain figurines have no hands because you liked to use those as your snares.

I gave in on your instrument of choice, but I tried to put up a fight on basketball. I knew once you started, it would be all-consuming, and I wanted you to try a few other things first. So when you were 4 years old and my sister, Aunt Mechie, asked if you could tag along to the 5-year-old rec league game she was coaching, I made her promise you wouldn't play. That girl lied.

When she found herself short a player, facing a forfeit, she told you not to tell me and threw a jersey on you. All of the people reading this letter can probably guess what happened next: My little Manny-man was the best player on the court and hit the game-winning shot, and there was just no stopping you from there. State champ at John Carroll, FIBA gold medal with USA Basketball, McDonald's All-American, five-star recruit.

Before we knew what hit us, it was time to make a college decision, and I'm sure you weren't surprised by my advice: Pray about it and ask God to make the choice clear. Not long after that, you were invited to try out for the under-19 USA team coached by … John Calipari. "Oh," I thought, "Kentucky was already on my mind." In those few weeks together, you and Cal figured out that you're a perfect fit – you, a poised perfectionist of a point guard and him, a point guard whisperer known for helping kids reach their dreams and challenging them every day to get there.

We asked for signs, and more came by way of text messages. Cal started sending me inspirational quotes that he shares with his players – one from his own mother really moved me – and it was pretty much a done deal from there. My classroom is filled with uplifting messages, many of which I now text back to Cal, so I understand how special it is when a teacher inspires a child. I wanted to find a coach who would inspire mine. Just like that, we had our answer.

Isn't it funny how that works? All we have to do is ask. Remember, my child, that you are never alone. As you move through life and face bigger and harder questions than where to play college basketball, when the fame fades and some hard days inevitably come, look no further than your own name for comfort and guidance. Immanuel. God with us.

Love,
Mom

P.S. Please get a haircut. I'm reading all these articles about you and looking at the photos, seeing those plats in your hair, and saying, "Who is that child? That child is not my son." You haven't called me in a while, I assume because you know your hair is a hot mess and you don't want to hear my mouth. Well, sorry. Cut your hair, son. Comb your hair. You're representing me out there!

Kentucky strength coach keeps up his energy for both his families

By: Chris Leach | Kentucky Kernel | Nov. 7

One word to best describe Kentucky basketball's strength and conditioning coach Rob Harris: energetic.

Before every home game, fans sitting in the Rupp Arena seats can see Harris bouncing around with the much-taller players on the jumbotron as they get pumped up in the backstage hallway before taking the court. Harris is often seen standing in the middle of the huddle screaming at the players, getting them ready for the battle they are about to face on the court.

Rupp Arena isn't the only place you will see Harris display high amounts of energy. In fact, anywhere he goes, Harris always brings the same intensity fans see on the

jumbotron.

"You can ask my kids, I'm probably the embarrassing parent at the soccer field, yelling and screaming," Harris said. "I have the same level of energy that I do here as I do at home, when I'm with friends; it's just who I am."

A high amount of energy is something Harris believes any great strength coach needs, especially at a place like Kentucky. Every year a fresh batch of 18-year-old high school graduates come to Lexington with little experience, and every year it is Harris' task to turn those boys into men, sometimes in less than a year.

In high school, most five-star players spend little time in the weight room and more time practicing their shot and other basketball skills. At such a young age, players don't see the importance of building strength and conditioning, and would rather work on their skills that can be displayed on the court.

Harris has had some players come to him during their first days on campus and tell him that they don't like lifting weights. One player who delivered that message to Harris was Isaiah Briscoe.

The two-year UK player and now guard for the Orlando Magic once told Harris that he wasn't going to lift weights, but when he left Kentucky after his sophomore season, he had a completely different opinion of the weight room.

"By the time he left, he was probably one of the biggest transformations bodywise I'd ever had and absolutely loved the weight room and was probably one of the strongest guys on the court," Harris said.

How exactly did Harris get him, and many others, to go from hating weights to becoming a gym rat? It's the high-energy weight room plus the bonds he creates with players as he encourages them to be their best.

Harris always tries to be the first one in the weight room and the last one out, so he's always available when the players are working out or have questions. When players are in the weight room, Harris will have music blaring through the speakers, but that isn't enough to drown out Harris completely.

"He's an uplifting guy, he's bringing the energy when we are in there lifting weights," freshman guard Ashton Hagans said of Harris. "...When I first got here I wasn't as built as I am now."

With the music pumping in the background, Harris is always running around the weight room, yelling at the players and motivating them to work harder or do an additional set. However, telling someone to do something and getting them to actually do it are two completely different things.

The way Harris motivates players to actually push harder is with the energy that he brings at all times.

"The excitement that I bring is— they can never match that," Harris said. "If they can go only go halfway to that then they're in great shape. If they can meet my excitement, which some do, then I think that we're in the right direction as far as me being the motivator to them."

Motivating the players to work harder and improve their strength is the basic job task for any strength coach. Aside from that, Harris believes he has an additional obligation with his job, and that's to provide the players with a sense of comfort in an area that's completely new to them.

Harris thinks of himself as a big brother for the players, someone to always have your back and encourage you to be the best you can be at the same time. Harris believes he's the perfect fit for the big brother role on the team because of the way he can interact with the players on a personal level.

"That's why I say I'm more or so that big brother role as opposed to some of the coaches," Harris said. "With me being a younger guy, being closer in age, I think we just kind of mesh well with their personalities and my personality."

Making personal connections and helping people is what led Harris into strength and conditioning. When Harris graduated from Kentucky State with a bachelor of arts in physical education, he became an intern on Kentucky's football strength and conditioning staff.

Even as an intern, Harris displayed the excellent work ethic he's known for that eventually helped him move his way up the ladder.

"When a lot of people spent time going home, I was like cleaning weight rooms, getting extra training sessions in with different athletes that I could," Harris said. "It's all about literally keeping your head down and just working to when you feel like you can't go anymore, and going even further."

Since the internship at UK, Harris has been involved in the strength and conditioning programs at Ohio State football, the Cincinnati Bengals and Arkansas football.

Harris joined the Kentucky basketball strength and conditioning staff as an assistant strength before the 2014-2015 season, and for the last two seasons, he's been the head strength coach for UK. Harris loves the role he's in now, as it provides him another platform to help kids improve their fitness.

"I have a passion for helping people, I have a passion for strength and conditioning and I also have a passion of knowing that when I go home, I got three women that are looking up to me as far as my wife and two daughters," Harris said.

Harris' family of his wife, Maria, and two daughters, Anaya and Alaya, is the first of his two families, the other being the basketball players he coaches in the weight room every day.

When Harris isn't in the weight room screaming at freshmen, he's often spending time with his real family, and the tight-knit group's favorite hobbies are horseback riding, playing board games and watching family TV shows.

"The home life is great, we make it a point to spend a lot of time together as far as— we eat dinner together as a family when we can, we also have like movie nights and pizza nights," Harris said.

When Harris goes home after a long day at work, he doesn't mellow down like many others might. In fact, he keeps up the same amount of energy as he would if he were yelling at a basketball player to push harder.

"We've done a test, a personality test the performance staff did, where it's like this is who you are at home," Harris said while moving the palms of his hands from closed to open. "Everybody else's was like 'This is who you are at work [palms open], this is who you are at home [palms closed].' Mine was 'This is who you are at work and this is who you are at home [palms closed].'"

Life as the strength coach at Kentucky can sometimes keep Harris away from his family, especially when he coaches a team that spends so much time in the gym. When Harris is away from home, he is still spending time with his family, however, the one that he continues to push and chase greatness with in the weight room.

"There's a lot of people who would love to be in the seat that I'm in, so it's like I've been blessed to be where I am and I don't want to take that for granted, so I give it 110 percent," Harris said. "Sometimes it might be too much but it is who I am."

Cats Will Have to Grow from Humbling Opener

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Nov. 7

The excitement of the start of a new season didn't last long.

It faded quickly, replaced by a full appreciation of the task before John Calipari the 2018-19 Kentucky Wildcats.

"We got a ways to go," Calipari said. "You always wish this stuff would be easier. It's never easy. And when you are the team that everybody's hunting, they're not going to play a bad game. So you gotta start playing better."

An opener against a lesser opponent likely would have yielded a win and certainly a more enjoyable evening than Tuesday in Indianapolis before a huge pro-Kentucky crowd. Instead, No. 2 UK faced No. 4 Duke in the State Farm Champions Classic. Their flaws laid bare and their early season issues plain to see, the Cats fell to the Blue Devils, 118-84.

"They were just better than us," Calipari said. "I told them, 'I got outcoached. You guys got outplayed. We'll watch the tape and move on.' "

Duke scored the game's opening basket – a 3-pointer – and led by double digits before the clock hit 14 minutes. The Cats were on the back foot from the outset, which will happen again this season. Their challenge is to develop into the kind of team that can overcome that.

"It was tough when you go down like that to start a game," said Reid Travis, who had 22 points and seven rebounds. "Obviously we were very excited, very hyped up for that game. It's kind of a blow to your chest, but I feel like as we mature as a team we'll be able to take those blows and we'll flip it."

Coach Cal didn't stop coaching, even as the deficit became insurmountable as the second half wore on. He wasn't about to miss an opportunity to shepherd his team.

"For me as a coach, I told them, 'We all gotta do some soul-searching here and let's figure this out,' " Calipari said. "I've done this a long time and I've had teams struggle."

Of course there are issues to address on offense, but most of UK's struggles came on defense. The Blue Devils shot 54.4 percent from the field and made 12 3s, but perhaps the most troubling development was UK's inability to force any miscues.

"It was defense," Calipari said. "Even in the exhibition games, we didn't create turnovers. I said that to the staff. There's something that we're missing here because we're not creating any turnovers."

Calipari knows only one solution for the turnover issue and any other one the Cats are facing: getting back in the gym.

"It's hard," Calipari said. "You're just going to have to go to work and you're going to have to teach and you're going to have to get them to play in a way that they can have success."

Not everything will automatically be fixed next time UK takes the court against Southern Illinois on Friday, but the Cats don't doubt their long-term prospects.

"I think as we go back, watch the film and get better, I love our group of guys because everyone does want to get better and you can really tell this hurt, because we do care," Travis said. "I think we're going to watch the film and get better from this,"

Coach Cal agrees.

"I haven't lost any faith in these guys because they're a bunch of good guys," Calipari said. "They're learning."

How two Wildcats broke out of their early-season slumps, had career nights

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Nov. 15

Chris Herro looked like a man who'd eaten nothing but his own fingernails for the last week. He's nervous by nature, and when son Tyler started his Kentucky career with a couple of ice-cold shooting performances? "I was a wreck," Chris admits. But then the Wildcats tipped off against North Dakota on Wednesday night and Tyler needed only 91 seconds to give his father reason to exhale. From the wing, Herro jab-stepped right and drove left to the elbow, elevated, faded away and followed through on a pure pull-up jumper.

"That's when I knew he was fine," Chris Herro said. "I've never seen him struggle like he did those first two games, so I was worried. I could tell he wasn't having fun. He wasn't smiling. There's so much pressure on these kids."

Herro, a freshman guard, had led Kentucky in scoring and 3-point shooting in four exhibition games this summer in the Bahamas. He'd scored 34 points in the Blue-White scrimmage. He'd buried five 3-pointers in the Wildcats' final preseason exhibition at Rupp Arena.

Then Duke happened. The Blue Devils, riding a three-headed dragon, incinerated then No. 2 Kentucky at the Champions Classic on opening night. It was such a thorough beatdown that it was fair to wonder whether it broke the Wildcats. That thought crept into Chris Herro's mind when his son struggled again the next game, against Southern Illinois, and was suddenly 4-of-17 from the field and 1-of-8 from 3.

Luckily, Herro did not inherit his father's anxiety.

"He said, 'Don't worry about it, Dad. I'll be all right.' Coach Cal (John Calipari) knows I'm always worried, too, so he told Ty, 'Hey, tell your dad not to worry,'" Chris said. "Cal is great – he really cares about these kids – and he met with Ty, which made me feel better. He said, 'It's good you're going through this.' And now I think he's right."

It was easier to see and say that from his courtside seat on Wednesday after watching his son hang in the air for an and-one, step in front of a couple of passes and glide in for steal-and-slams and pull a quick trigger on a 3-pointer in transition. Herro hit 7 of 12 shots and finished with 18 points, five steals and three assists in a 96-58 rout.

He credited both the buckets and his defense to film study, which is not something you hear many Kentucky players talk about. In fact, how little the Wildcats watch film has almost been a point of pride in the Calipari era. But Herro isn't going to overwhelm anyone with size or athleticism, like so many of the Wildcats' one-and-done stars, so his edge will necessarily be tactical, and he sees that now.

"I saw some things they like to do offensively, and I was just anticipating that for steals," said Herro, who enjoyed those more than the buckets. "Because they say I can't play defense."

He went to the tape to fix his shot too. He's been working with a shooting coach in Milwaukee for years, and his shot doctor sent a diagnosis to both Chris and Tyler after the cold start.

"He sent us a video and you could see he was kind of pulling back with his shooting hand instead of following through," said the father. "He goes, 'You did this same shit as a sophomore (in high school), and it took us 25 minutes to fix.' He gave Ty some drills and Ty did what he always does: He got in the gym and fixed it."

For shooters, though, the space between their ears is as important as anything in the physical mechanics. So it was helpful

for Herro – and his dad – to learn that past Kentucky marksmen struggled early. Devin Booker started 1-of-11 from 3-point range as a freshman, Jamal Murray 3-of-15, Malik Monk 2-of-12 and Kevin Knox 2-of-8. All were NBA lottery picks by the end of their lone season in Lexington.

"He probably needed this," Chris said. "He'd been riding high since the Bahamas. Coach Cal always says, 'This shit isn't easy.' Well, Ty wasn't being arrogant, but when everything is working for you … then you hit a bump and all of a sudden he says, 'Oh, this shit isn't easy.' But I feel a lot better now. Not even just for Ty. For the whole team. They look looser, more together. They came in against Duke not knowing who they were or what it takes, and Duke hit them in the mouth, and it's sort of good they did, honestly."

That the freshmen would struggle initially isn't nearly as surprising, though, as sophomore forward PJ Washington sputtering to start the season. The former McDonald's All-American was among Kentucky's best players last season and almost bolted for the NBA, so his return meant the Wildcats had at least one guy they could count on – in theory.

But Washington produced as many fouls (eight) as rebounds in the first two games, totaled just 11 points, coughed up five turnovers and fouled out of that Duke blowout in just 17 minutes. Blue Devils freshmen R.J. Barrett, Zion Williamson and Cam Reddish stole the show that night, with a horde of NBA scouts taking notes. Had Washington put too much pressure on himself?

Maybe, but there was also a simpler explanation. During that game, he jammed the thumb and ring finger on his left hand, the same one on which his pinky had to be surgically repaired in the offseason. He hadn't even begun to fully trust that digit when suddenly he was down a couple more.

"It was just hard for me to catch balls. It was terrible. These fingers were huge (swollen). I only had two good fingers. I couldn't really dribble the ball. It was just a bad thing," Washington said. "But they're recovering now."

If Wednesday night was any indication, he is healed. Washington poured in a career-high 25 points, grabbed seven rebounds, sank 9 of 13 shots and hit 4 of 5 3-pointers. That is the kind of thing he came back to college to show NBA scouts. He made 5 of 21 3s all last season and is now 5-of-7 from deep as a sophomore.

"I was really frustrated (the first two games), getting a lot of quick foul calls. That kind of really got to me. I was sitting on the bench the whole game frustrated," Washington said. "I felt like I couldn't find a rhythm. This game, I just tried to be aggressive and be smart about it at the same time."

Washington had a career-high 25 points against North Dakota on Wednesday. Unlike Herro's dad, Paul Washington Sr. was not on pins and needles before tip-off on Wednesday. He was sprawled out in his seat, leaning back, smiling, greeting anyone who walked by with an air of total confidence. He coached PJ all the way through high school and knows what his son can do at the highest level.

"It's a long season," he said, shrugging. "We're not panicking over two games. His hand was really messed up, but that's the nature of the business. If you're a truck driver, you're going to have to drive in the snow too. You still have a job to do. Ain't no excuses. I just told him to get the job done. Stay out of foul trouble, play with energy, defend – and get some damn rebounds. He always says, 'I got it.' He's very confident. He gets it from his mother."

Her name, Sherry, was on his sneakers on Wednesday night. As were his siblings. Dad didn't make the cut this time, because Paul Sr. and PJ (Paul Junior) share a name and the guy who customized this pair of Nikes didn't think he wanted his own name on the shoes. Washington wore a pair that included his father's name during the Duke game, but one can assume he metaphorically or perhaps literally set fire to those immediately afterward.

"We just gotta learn from that," Washington said. "We're on the right path now. By March, we'll be rolling, and we'll probably see them again."

Calipari on UK's defense: 'We are not anticipating, and we don't trust'

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Nov. 20

Sarcasm. Puzzlement. Optimism. Concession.

All played a part in John Calipari's assessment of Kentucky's team four games into the 2018-19 season.

Wednesday afternoon's opponent inspired the sarcasm. Winthrop (2-2) averages 10.3 three-point baskets per game. This surely is an attention grabber after VMI's 18 three-pointers on Sunday was a record by a Kentucky opponent.

After acknowledging Winthrop's reliance on three-pointers (41.2 percent of the Eagles' shots come from beyond the arc), Calipari said, "We've really guarded the three pretty well so far this year."

That was the sarcasm. The first four opponents have made 43.3 percent of their three-point shots, which if maintained would be record accuracy against any UK team.

Calipari spoke of defenders contesting shots with a hand up and rotating to a shooter.

"When you're a high school player, you're just worried (about) where your man is …," he said. "Now, to get them to see the ball and then anticipate what is coming next. The second part of that is trust. If I anticipate what's going to happen, I have to trust someone has my man if I leave.

"We are not anticipating, and we don't trust."

Reid Travis suggested that it not be forgotten that there were two teams on the Rupp Arena court last weekend. VMI's players shot well.

"They made some great shots, some nice contested shots," Travis said.

Of course, that began with Bubba Parham, who made 10 of 16 three-point shots. When a reporter noted the distance on some of Parham's threes, Travis said, "Those are shots generally you want teams to take. You'd probably have success if they're doing that."

Calipari expressed puzzlement about Kentucky's own 32.8-percent shooting on threes. Only twice has a UK team had a poorer accuracy: 31.7 percent in 2001-02 and 29.2 percent in 1999-2000.

"This team should be a good shooting team," Calipari said. "I just don't understand why we got a couple guys that aren't making shots."

Calipari did not name the two guys. A guess would be Immanuel Quickley (2-for-11 on threes) and Tyler Herro (3-for-13).

The calendar seemed to inspire optimism. After all, Thanksgiving has not arrived in a season that ends after April Fool's Day.

"They're going to get it," Calipari said of his players. "You try to push it along. But they're going to get it on their terms. …

"This team should be a great defensive team, a great rebounding team, a great

post-up team that can shoot threes. That's ... my vision of this team."

A pointed question about whether Kentucky has a difference-maker on a roster deep with contributing players sparked a concession. Calipari all but said UK does not have a standout player like John Wall, Anthony Davis or Karl-Anthony Towns.

More than once earlier this season, Calipari has conceded this point. He has repeatedly called for the emergence of a catalyst who can change the tenor of games. Later, he said Duke did not need to run plays, but simply clear space for a player like Zion Williamson, Cam Reddish or RJ Barrett to make a play. By contrast, he said, Kentucky players needed X-and-O help.

Calipari recalled how few saw Shai Gilgeous-Alexander as such a player at this time last season. Then Gilgeous-Alexander's play all but dictated how Kentucky would perform.

"My hope is that's what will happen with this group ...," Calipari said. "It's a consistency now, too. Like you can't just be that (guy) every third game."

Calipari seemed to suggest it's ideal if that player is a point guard, but that lead pony can play other positions.

"We've done it all kind of different ways. ...," he said.

Calipari's mixed review of Kentucky's first few performances continued to almost the very end of a 12-minute news conference.

"They'll be as good as they want to be," he said in a relative upbeat, if somewhat guarded tone. "And if they keep growing and getting better and have good attitudes, and they really do ..."

At this point, it appeared a sobering thought came to mind. Because Calipari then said, "We've thrown a tough schedule at them."

Herro's Game Undergoing a Transformation

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Nov. 21

It's been a different kind of experience for Tyler Herro, struggling with his outside shot as he has.

His reputation as a knockdown shooters was well-earned in high school, and he had only added to it in cementing it in establishing himself as a fan favorite in his first preseason at Kentucky.

So when Herro made 3-of-13 3-pointers in the first four games of his college career, it inevitably led to some soul searching.

Based on the way he played Wednesday, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, native may just be on the way to finding himself. As No. 10/10 UK (4-1) downed Winthrop in a Rupp Arena matinee, 87-74, Herro scored 15 points, making 3-of-8 3-pointers, and added a game-high seven assists.

"That was surprising," John Calipari said, smiling and clearly trying to prod Herro as a passer. "I told him, I said for the worst passer I've ever coached in my history to have seven assists, that's an amazing accomplishment. And he says he's not that bad a passer."

Indeed, Herro believes in his own passing ability.

"I think I'm a good passer," Herro said. "I like making plays for others. I thought I did that in high school really well. I think I can do that here too, but whatever Coach has me doing that's what I'm going to be doing."

That hits on an important aspect of Herro's transition. In high school, Herro had the ball in his hands for much of the game, free to create his own shot off the dribble or to create for his teammates. Now, he spends much more time off the ball.

"That's just part of the process," Herro said. "Being able to dribble the ball up the court and make a play, come off a ball screen. Now it's kind of like you're away from the ball. You have to make a play on the fly right off the catch."

With that, Herro is being challenged by his coach to speed up the process of getting his shot off.

"He did good today," Calipari said. "But again, making him catch and shoot, all we worked on. And believe me I was all over him. If he brought that ball down or if he dipped before he shot, I was, no. Now he doesn't make as many because he hadn't ever practiced that way, he's never ever worked that way."

Now, Herro is most certainly working that way. In fact, Calipari isn't leaving him any choice in the matter.

"He's just been on me lately," Herro said, "really in practice and we had individual workouts where I'm just catching right away, shooting and elevating on jump shot, trying to shoot as many game-like shots in my workouts and kind of translate it over."

Wednesday was a good start.

Music and church give Immanuel Quickley a release from basketball

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Nov. 23

Between games, practices and classes there is not much free time on the schedules of Kentucky basketball players.

But freshman point guard Immanuel Quickley knows he plays best when he makes sure there is time for two of the most important parts of his life: church and music.

"Definitely a religious person, so (I) try to go to church at least two to three times a week just to get my mind off basketball," Quickley said. "And then with the music thing I try to go at least once a week to play the drums, have a little fun outside of basketball."

Before Quickley blossomed into a five-star basketball prospect and McDonald's All-American, he played saxophone in the John Carroll School marching band in Maryland.

Even after he realized there might not be enough time for the band if he was going to put in the work needed to become a high-major basketball prospect, he played drums at the Highway Holiness Church.

Shortly after moving to Lexington in June, he asked his Twitter followers for a church recommendation in town. Since finding a new spiritual home, he has made sure to keep up the regular drum sessions.

"It just gets my mind off things for a certain amount of time, I guess," Quickley said. "Basketball can be pretty overwhelming at times, so just playing music is pretty cool."

It is easy to imagine how a high-profile player like Quickley might be overwhelmed by the spotlight that comes with being a Kentucky basketball player.

On his UK bio he lists "being average" as his greatest fear in life.

So when he totaled 18 assists and just two turnovers in four August exhibition games in the Bahamas, perhaps it was no surprise that UK coach John Calipari was actually worried about Quickley holding himself to too high a standard.

"He's like a Brandon Knight in the building: always here, always working, always in the weight room," Calipari said. "He's like Shai (Gilegous-Alexander), the best in the weight room. ... He wants to be perfect — and he almost was down there — (but) I want him to be a little more aggressive, take more chances."

Calipari moved Quickley into the starting lineup after the season-opening blowout

loss to Duke, and he responded with back-to-back double-digit scoring performances against Southern Illinois and North Dakota to go with four assists, four steals and two turnovers.

There has been noticeable room for improvement though, with Quickley missing 9 of 11 3-point attempts to start his career despite winning the team's Big Blue Madness 3-point shooting contest.

"He's steady, and right now, we always talk to Immanuel about how he's being a little bit too careful," UK assistant coach Tony Barbee said. "We'd like to see him push the envelope because he's capable of even more, but it's good to have a steady hand in that position where you know he's going to take care of the ball, get us into our actions."

Quickley credits his mother, a school teacher, and his grandfather for teaching him the hard work needed to chase perfection from an early age.

In a video recorded during Calipari's home visit with Quickley's family during his recruitment, the 6-foot-3, 185-pound point guard sits on a piano bench focused on Calipari's pitch about coming to Kentucky to practice against other future NBA players on a daily basis.

"Being pushed every day is why I came here," he said. "Coach Cal kept it real with me. That's pretty much the biggest reason I came here: I want to be pushed, I want to be great."

To be great, Quickley will continue to put in the work on the court and in the weight room. But he will also make sure to spend some time away from it fulfilling the other needs in his life.

That formula should ensure his fear of being average is never realized.

"It just comes from honestly if anybody has had a mediocre game, I hate that feeling," he said. "Just getting in the gym and working hard. You're just trying to perfect your craft, and that's really what the biggest deal is."

Ashton Hagans brings connection to college football playoff, Clemson QB

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Dec. 5

Sunday's reveal of the College Football Playoff field held a personal connection to one Kentucky basketball player.

Freshman point guard Ashton Hagans seems likely to root for No. 2 seed Clemson in the upcoming playoff as the Tigers are led by childhood friend and former rec-league football teammate Trevor Lawrence at quarterback.

"That was my brother," Hagans said. "… He was also my best friend."

Playing youth football together in Cartersville, Georgia, Hagans and Lawrence won their 12-year-old league, according to Hagans' father Marvin. They also played a year of middle school basketball together before Hagans moved.

While Lawrence went on to blossom into the No. 1-ranked recruit in the country and nab the Clemson starting quarterback job early in his freshman season, eventually earning ACC Rookie of the Year honors while leading the Tigers to an undefeated regular season, Hagans was able to hold his own on the gridiron when the two played together as kids.

"He's a better football player than a basketball player," Marvin Hagans said. "… He was one of them do-it-all types. Running back, quarterback, cornerback, wide receiver."

Hagans' cousin and fellow Cartersville native Ronnie Brown starred as a running back at Auburn under the tutelage of current UK offensive coordinator and running backs coach Eddie Gran before going onto a 10-year NFL career.

Perhaps it is no surprise then that Ashton was a better football player than basketball player growing up, a point he concedes with a laugh after being asked about his father's pronouncement.

"I really played defense, but I also played running back," Ashton said. "We were competing, we were going at it, we were getting the wins. It was exciting."

Even after he moved, Ashton kept in touch with Lawrence and still talks to the Clemson star quarterback occasionally today.

As a student at Newton High School in Covington, Georgia, Ashton began to rival Lawrence in recruiting hype on the basketball court, eventually being ranked as the No. 1 point guard and No. 12 prospect in the 2018 class by the 247Sports Composite.

What happened to football?

"Football wasn't really for me," Ashton said. "I didn't like playing in the cold. It wasn't really for me at all. I just had to stay inside."

Still, Marvin credits those early football skills for Hagans building his basketball reputation as an elite on-ball defender in high school.

His offensive game remains a work in progress, but that defense has begun to earn him more minutes for Kentucky, especially after he locked down UNC Greensboro guard Francis Alonso for just three points in the second half following a 19-point first half outburst Saturday.

"He's physical," UK coach John Calipari said. "He's more athletic. He can stay in front of people. He gave him one shot, if you remember, in front of their bench where he guarded him with his hands down and the kid made a three. Short of that, he guarded him, and I told the team after the game, so what's just been proven is if another team gets going with an individual player, what are we going to do as a team? We're putting Ashton on him."

Now both Lawrence and Hagans have a chance to help lead their teams to postseason runs as freshmen.

Lawrence will get his shot in the Cotton Bowl against No. 3 seed Notre Dame on Dec. 29. That same day Hagans will look to help the Wildcats to a rivalry win against Louisville in the last game before a daunting Southeastern Conference schedule.

Regardless of the playoff outcome, Hagans is already proud of his childhood friend.

"It's amazing to see him doing what he do," Hagans said of Lawrence. "He's putting on for his school. We're both from the same city. It's just amazing to see somebody be great from my city."

With the emergence of Ashton Hagans as a defensive stopper, has Kentucky found its identity

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Dec. 6

It was an audacious request that was initially met with the kind of incredulous reaction one might imagine. On Monday night, I asked an NBA scout if he would take a peek at video from the second half of Kentucky's win against UNC Greensboro and tell me what he saw from freshman point guard Ashton Hagans on defense.

"LOL," the scout replied via text message, "is this sarcasm or what?"

But I was serious. Because having studied every second-half play on which he shadowed UNCG star Francis Alonso, I believed that Hagans had just made art. That he had finally delivered the kind of

suffocating defensive performance to match his high school reputation (and those flashes of brilliance we saw during summer exhibition games in the Bahamas, which now seem so very long ago).

Alas, I am but a "Basketball Benny," as John Calipari likes to say, a writer whose formal hoops education ended in the 10th grade. Not trusting my own eyes – especially after declaring Hagans perhaps the best on-ball defender Calipari has signed at Kentucky, only to watch him flounder early this season – I wondered what a professional talent evaluator saw. A few awkward minutes passed after the LOL, but then …

"This is fun to watch," wrote the scout, who decided to humor me.

Perhaps he was watching the possession with 10:18 left when Hagans fought through two screens to stay with Alonso and was right in his face when the Spartans' all-time leader in made 3-pointers finally managed to catch a pass on the right wing. Hagans nearly forced a turnover, made Alonso give the ball up and refused to let him get it back.

"It really is beautiful," the scout wrote a couple of minutes (and video clips) later.

Surely he was looking at the sequence with 9:17 to go when Hagans navigated four screens and chased Alonso all over the floor, denying every attempt to get him the ball. The possession ultimately resulted in a UNCG turnover, after which Alonso, exhausted by trying to play basketball in a straitjacket, checked out for a breather.

"(Hagans) clearly understands the concept of team defense and communicating, which is usually the biggest issue of all college players transitioning to the NBA – defending off the ball," said the scout, unaware that barely a week earlier Calipari had called Hagans an on-ball terror (as advertised) but just as lost as all of his other freshmen off the ball. Apparently, progress is being made in a hurry. "He just gives a lot of effort and has the speed to chase his guy," the scout continued. "Defense is never over-complicated. Guys just don't care enough."

Ah, there it is. Ashton Hagans cares a lot about defense, dating to his first forays into grassroots basketball when no one knew his name and his father suggested he try to stand out on the end of the floor that most elite young players ignore. That's how Hagans evolved into the nation's top-ranked point guard prospect – because of his defense. It was only a matter of time, then, until he figured out what it takes to put the clamps on in college.

"Coach always says that Ashton can come in and change the game right away," freshman teammate Tyler Herro said. "I think he's the best defender in the country on the ball. Off the ball, that's just something we all gotta improve on. Whether we haven't been taught it before, don't know it, the game's quicker or whatever, we'll continue to get better at that."

Hagans seems to have signed up for the accelerated course.

His emergence started last week during a 90-44 demolition of Monmouth. Calipari instituted a new game within the game for that one: three (or more) consecutive defensive stops equals a "kill," and killers get to stay on the court. The Wildcats recorded five kills that night, and Hagans was in the lineup for four of them. In those shutdown stretches, averaging about four minutes apiece, he helped UK's lead grow from two points to eight, then eight to 14, then 16 to 20 and finally 34 to 45.

"Ashton went in and settled it down," Calipari said after that game, "which may (indicate) Ashton should be in the game the last part of the game. Let him be in there guarding and keeping people in front and mixing it up."

Hagans could be the basketball equivalent of a shutdown corner. Stick him on the other team's biggest scoring threat and watch an opposing offense grind to a halt. That's what happened last Saturday against UNC Greensboro after Alonso reached his season average (19 points) in the first half alone while being guarded primarily by Herro and fellow freshman Keldon Johnson. Alonso hit 5 of 6 shots and all four of his 3-point attempts (and got sophomore Quade Green off his feet for a foul beyond the arc).

Enter Hagans, whose quick progress coming into the game was not clearly evident to all, or at least not to ESPN broadcaster Jimmy Dykes. "I don't think Hagans is engaged enough or disciplined enough to chase this kid and keep him from getting the ball and getting good looks," Dykes first told the audience, after which Hagans recorded six consecutive stops.

Save one moment when he got caught with his hands down while Alonso sized up (and then hit) a deep trey, the 19-year-old Hagans was almost perfect against the 22-year-old Spaniard. In 20 second-half possessions against Alonso, he denied him the ball six times – UNCG's favorite play was starting Alonso in the corner and running him off multiple screens for open 3s on the wings, but everywhere he turned, Hagans was there – forced him to quickly give the ball up five times, got four missed shots, three turnovers, one foul (on the helping Herro) and that lone made 3-pointer.

Alonso looked miserable wearing Hagans like a too-small coat.

"It hasn't been that hard to shoot the ball and get quality shots all year," Spartans coach Wes Miller said. "When a guy like Hagans checks in, it's really difficult. He did a really nice job defending screens off the ball and playing off the ball in the second half, but in scouting all we were really worried about was pressure in the backcourt. That was kind of the main thing we talked about in scouting, the impact on the game he has defensively, and I think he'll do that to just about anybody in the country this year."

"He's very gifted," UK senior Reid Travis said, "but I'd say the biggest thing is he just takes a lot of pride in defense. Most guys kind of just (begrudgingly) play defense, but he puts the effort in and he has pride about shutting down the other guy. I think you'll see that a lot this season. That's the guy we see every day in practice. He makes it tough on us to even get into our offense at times. He's able to create energy, and I think you'll see a lot of runs just on the back of him."

Alonso made just 1 of 6 shots in the second half and had no assists. After his final bucket with 16:13 to go, Kentucky outscored the Spartans 36-16. The Wildcats got four more "kills" with Hagans on the floor.

"We said, 'We can either let the kid get 60 or put Ashton on him,' and then Ashton made him work to get shots and run, and all of a sudden you're into their legs. They had to take him out a few times," Calipari said of Alonso. "I told the team after the game, 'So what's just been proven is if another team gets going with an individual player, what are we going to do as a team? We're going to put Ashton on him.' So Ashton, I would come in every day and work so hard at my defense so that I know I'm getting my minutes."

Hagans had played 16 or fewer minutes in four of Kentucky's first six games and combined for just 28 minutes in a pair of games two weeks ago, then he logged

48 total minutes against Monmouth and UNCG. He totaled 12 points, six assists, four rebounds and four steals in these last two wins, and while his offense remains very much a work in progress, Hagans has made strides there, too.

With 10:33 to go and Kentucky trailing the Spartans by one, he delivered his most exciting bucket of the season, snaring a defensive rebound and zooming down the center of the floor, crossing over one defender at half court and splitting two more at the top of the key before double-clutching to avoid UNCG's shot-blocking specialist and banking in a shot as he was knocked to the ground for a three-point play. Hagans, his teammates and the Rupp Arena crowd roared in celebration of that dazzling highlight, because everyone knows what it means if he can use his hyper speed and athleticism to contribute something — anything — on offense to go with that devastating D.

"It's really going to help us," Travis said. "He obviously disrupts on defense and can facilitate on offense, but when he kind of picks his spots and gets in there, that finish is something you could see all the time."

Calipari would settle for Hagans playing defense as he did on Saturday on a regular basis. That was the guy who seemed to rob grown men, foreign professional players, of their very will to receive the basketball after hounding them all over the floor in those Bahamas exhibitions. If he can be counted on to bring it like that in these games that actually count, Kentucky might be onto something.

"Glad he's finally doing what he's supposed to do," the NBA scout texted after watching Hagans demoralize Alonso and a UNCG offense that has scored 100 points twice this season and dropped 91 on LSU in Baton Rouge. Kentucky beat the Spartans, 78-61. "He's the one who will live and die by (defense). That has to be his thing."

And Calipari has to find a way to mix and match all of his imperfect pieces, including Hagans, to maximize each of their individual strengths. This season, the expectation for which got a hard reset after Duke demolished the Wildcats in a stunning season opener, will be a test of the Hall of Fame coach's flexibility and creativity. Can he set aside the team he thought he had and coach the one he actually has?

The only way Kentucky morphs into a Final Four contender come March is if Calipari finds a way to deploy guys with at least one elite trait — chief among them, Hagans and fellow freshman EJ Montgomery, a too-skinny, still-confused power forward who can swat shots and swish them on the other end — in clearly defined roles that allow them to shine. It has become painfully obvious that these Cats don't have a singular star, but they do have enough parts to cobble together a championship team.

"They aren't talented enough to just throw out there," the scout said. "Play them to their strengths and you have a chance to be decent and maybe steal the SEC."

Calipari isn't used to thinking in such terms — steal a league that UK has mostly dominated for decades? — but Tennessee and Auburn are top-10 teams who shared the conference crown last season by operating exactly the way he'll have to this year. John Wall, Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns aren't walking through that door, so it's going to be a sum-of-their-parts approach for these Wildcats.

Of all people, Hagans might've been the first piece to fall into his place.

"I really thought the 'kill' thing is something (Calipari) should've had sooner, because it's going to make all of us want to stay on the court and play more," Hagans said. "He was telling us whoever keeps getting stops, that's who he's going to leave in. That's why everybody was willing to fight more."

And with that simple flip of a switch, at least one of Kentucky's flawed freshmen figured out how to be the best version of himself. Which prompts another audacious ask of that scout: Did Hagans, whose pro prospects are shaky at the moment, look like an NBA defender against UNC Greensboro?

"For sure," the scout wrote. "Wonder if he could even go after this year.

'Basic basketball things' dictate which big men fit in UK's rotation

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 6

A scoreboard shows who's winning and losing when Kentucky plays. But the question of the day Thursday was how UK determines who's winning and losing in the internal competition among the team's four "bigs."

By definition, Coach John Calipari's preference for a three-player rotation among the big men means less playing time for the fourth man. As of late, that player has been Nick Richards, who got in for only one minute against UNC Greensboro last weekend.

Richards hasn't played more than 12 minutes in a game since Nov. 14. Calipari has repeatedly said that Richards can get more playing time in practice.

But how does a "big" move up or down in Kentucky's so-called depth chart?

"It's not cut and dry exactly as far as him telling you these are the three," said Reid Travis, whose 37 minutes against UNC Greensboro raised his average playing time to 25.3 minutes. "You can tell how you're performing in practice."

It's not a matter of moving up by posting and scoring against an opposing big man, Travis said.

What he called "basic basketball things" in practice bring upward or downward mobility.

"You're bringing energy," Travis said. "You're talking. You're engaged. You're defending. You're blocking shots. Getting out on screens.

"It's not as hard as you'd think. . . . If you're playing the way you're supposed to play, everybody in the gym can see that who knows basketball. It's about doing the right things."

As for Richards, he's apparently moved in the right direction lately. "Did some good stuff yesterday," Calipari said. "Really good. I'm happy for him."

On the offensive end, Calipari said UK's "bigs" are preoccupied with drawing fouls and getting to the foul line. He'd prefer they concentrate on scoring.

"Trying to draw fouls versus trying to score," Calipari said.

EJ Montgomery, the least bulky of UK's "bigs," is an exception.

"He runs from contact," Calipari said. "That's why he's not drawing the fouls."

Shooting a fade-away usually draws Calipari's ire. But in the context of Kentucky's big men this season, the coach accepts Montgomery's approach.

"I'm good with that because he's trying to score even though he fades away," Calipari said.

As for playing time, the onus will remain on Richards – and UK's other three "bigs" (PJ Washington, Montgomery and Travis) – to compete for the three available spots in the rotation.

Calipari said he prefers the three-player

rotation because it can prevent two players from slacking off in practice, thus limiting the competition for the two starters.

Of course, three players in a rotation means someone gets left out. Calipari did not sound sympathetic.

"I've got to coach to win," he said. "I'll deal with egos later. I like the fact they've got to compete for their time."

'Not a number type of guy': Gaudy stats don't motivate PJ Washington, father says

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 7

When Kentucky played in New York last season, less was more for PJ Washington. He scored a then career-high 20 points, grabbed six rebounds and tied a career high of four blocks in a victory over Monmouth. He also showed his defensive versatility by playing on the back line and at the front of a 2-3 zone.

UK Coach John Calipari linked this breakout performance to Washington losing 15 pounds in a recent 17-day period. If there were such an award as Weight Watchers Player of the Week, Washington would have won it.

Ever the never-satisfied coach, Calipari added, "And I even said, maybe lose seven, eight more. Huh? Maybe you can even get better."

Fast forward to this season and Kentucky has put a more-is-more label on Washington. UK does not want more pounds, but more points, rebounds, blocks and presence.

"I believe PJ is a dominant basketball player who is super talented, that can put this team on his back," associate coach Kenny Payne said recently. "And for whatever reason, there is an inconsistency there."

A mid-November three-game spree that saw a career high 18 rebounds against VMI, a career-high 25 points against North Dakota and back-to-back double-doubles should become the norm for Washington, Payne said.

As UK prepared for a return trip to New York for Saturday's game against Seton Hall, Washington's father saw the more-is-more expectation as another example of a never-satisfied coach encouraging a player to continually try to improve.

"Do you play the lottery?" Paul Washington said. "I do. I want to win every time I play, right?"

His son wants to win, too, Paul Washington said. Don't tell Ken Pomeroy, but statistics do not serve as much of a motivator.

"Winning is the top priority ...," the elder Washington said. "He's not a numbers type of guy. It's just not in his DNA."

A coach himself until retiring after last season, Paul Washington knows about spurring a player to greater heights.

"I try to keep it simple for him when I talk to him," he said. "'Let's just go out and rebound.' I think when you rebound and have fun, the other parts of the game will come."

The elder Washington said he gained an appreciation for a one-for-all approach when he played for Middle Tennessee. He tried to instill that attitude in his son.

"There were always guards who came down and shot the ball all the time," he said of his playing days. "I was just frustrated. 'When I get it, they want it back.' I just hated playing with selfish, selfish people who took their self-interest above the team."

The elder Washington said he understood and supported the UK coaches seeking more from his son. That goes with PJ being a veteran player.

"At Kentucky, a sophomore is almost like a senior," he said.

And PJ is more comfortable as a sophomore.

"It's like walking into a new apartment with the lights out," Paul Washington said. "The sun just went down. With no lights, you don't know where things are at.

"This year, he knows where the light switch is at. He knows how to get around the furniture. He's a lot more comfortable in his surroundings."

PJ Washington's time as a Kentucky player has been a display of versatility. As a freshman, he became a low-post strongman. This was never more evident than in UK's loss to Kansas State in the NCAA Tournament.

Going through the NBA Draft process last spring was something of a flashback experience. Pro scouts advised Washington to improve his perimeter skills. He had played point guard at a younger age.

Now, Kentucky is asking for more-more-more. As Payne said, give 110-percent effort rather than a comfortably productive 85.

"He needs to do what Cal and Kenny Payne tell him to do this year to win this year," Paul Washington said. "It sounds like what they're saying is they need him at 110 percent to be that leader that they need."

Can Jemarl Baker help address Kentucky basketball's shooting problem

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Dec. 12

Somewhat lost in the frenzy of Kentucky's overtime loss to Seton Hall on Saturday was an interesting development for the Wildcats' bench.

With 1:19 left in the first half and Kentucky leading by five, redshirt freshman guard Jemarl Baker checked into a game for the first time as a Wildcat.

Baker, who missed all of last season with a knee injury, had dressed out for most of Kentucky's games in the last month but had yet to play as he dealt with lingering trouble with the knee. UK coach John Calipari had told reporters Baker was unavailable to play despite dressing out for the games.

But with Tyler Herro and Ashton Hagans each sidelined by two fouls in the first half against Seton Hall, UK coaches asked Baker if he was ready to play.

"He said he could," Calipari said after the game.

Baker stayed on the court until halftime but did not record any statistics other than his one minute of game action.

With the final hurdle between Baker and the game action apparently cleared, could the California native boost Kentucky's sputtering offense now?

"I said to Jemarl, 'Right now you're the 10th man,'" Calipari said on his radio show Monday. "'You are. You just started practicing. Not moving in front of anybody yet, but here's what I would tell you, when you get your chance, be the seventh guy, sixth guy, start. But you're going to have to go perform in games.'"

Baker's return comes as the Wildcats struggle to live up to Calipari's pronouncement that this team could be his best shooting squad at Kentucky. While those around Baker have promised he is more than a shooter, 3-point shooting was the skill that earned Baker a later scholarship offer from Kentucky in the 2017 class.

The summer before his senior season, Baker led the Under Armour AAU circuit in made 3-pointers. As a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in California, Baker hit 94 3s.

"Jemarl is a sharpshooter," sophomore guard Quade Green told the Courier Journal before the season. "He can shoot from

anywhere. He's cash. Can mess the net up. His nets get caught, and you be sitting here 20 minutes trying to fix the net."

While Calipari pointed to foul trouble as the reason for Baker's surprise appearance against Seton Hall, it is important to note he actually replaced Green in the lineup even though Green had only one foul at the time of the substitution. More than five minutes had already passed since Herro had joined Hagans on the bench with his second foul.

It is possible Green needed a breather — though he had only played nine first-half minutes — but Calipari turned to Baker instead of going with the big lineup he has used at times featuring PJ Washington at the three and Keldon Johnson at the two.

There appears to be an opportunity for a healthy Baker to carve out a role in Kentucky's rotation considering Green is the only UK guard shooting better than 32 percent from 3-point range and he seems to have fallen out of favor with Calipari, logging just one minute in the second half of Kentucky's last two games against UNC Greensboro and Seton Hall.

Freshman guards Hagans, Herro, Johnson and Immanuel Quickley are a combined 27 for 97 (27.8 percent) from 3-point range on the season.

"This team should be able to shoot the ball better, but we're just not," Calipari said.

As the No. 73-ranked recruit in the class of 2017 with four guards ranked at least 40 spots higher than him by the 247Sports Composite already committed to Kentucky when he joined the class, Baker knew the path to regular minutes would not be easy.

The lost practice time from the injury only made that challenge more difficult as Calipari added another crop of five-star guards to the roster this season.

"He's going to be able to handle all that," Baker's high school coach, Stephen Singleton, told the Courier Journal this spring. "He's a kid who's never been given anything, so he's going to go in there and compete for his minutes and earn all those minutes that he gets. I think he's not afraid of competition. I think he's been waiting a whole year now to really show what he can do."

If the knee injury is truly behind him, the opportunity for Baker to do just that is finally here.

"I thought he did pretty good (against Seton Hall), but it was his first time," Calipari said. "Now, hopefully he gets that chance and gets in there and does some good stuff for us."

John Calipari after Quade Green transfer: 'I'm not panicked'

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Dec. 14

Kentucky coach John Calipari is not worried that Quade Green's decision to transfer is part of a greater problem affecting his program.

Yes, his current team is inexperienced and there's a decent chance his next one will lack a returning scholarship upperclassman for the third season in a row, but Calipari said Thursday he sees little difference between that inexperience and the way his Kentucky rosters were constructed during his unprecedented run of success from 2009 to 2015.

"Everybody is on a different path," Calipari said. "We've had guys here a year and leave. We've had guys here two years and left. We've had guys three years and left. We've had guys stay four years and be in the NBA. Some of them graduate and then go on and they don't play professionally. Everybody is on their own path. What affects guys sometimes is someone else's path. The best you can do is be your best."

All that is true.

In Calipari's tenure at Kentucky, he has coached 22 players who left school after one year and were drafted in the first round. Others like Terrence Jones, Darius Miller, Andrew Harrison and Tyler Ulis played for Calipari for two years and went on to enjoy productive NBA stints.

Willie Cauley-Stein stayed three years and developed into a first-round pick. Alex Poythress, Derek Willis and Dominique Hawkins stayed on campus for four years, though Poythress was forced to do so by an injury.

But Green's transfer continues a streak of Green six consecutive UK sophomores leaving the program via transfer or the NBA draft without being selected since the end of the 2016-17 season. The only scholarship junior or senior on UK's roster the last two seasons is graduate transfer Reid Travis.

In a season in which Calipari has repeatedly pointed to inexperience as being a key factor in Kentucky's inconsistent play, questions about why players are electing to leave after two years to develop in the NBA's developmental league, professional leagues overseas or at other colleges seem to strike at the root of the issue.

He dismissed many of those doubts Friday though, saying any recruit a coach suggests should be a three- or four-year will likely be insulted by the insinuation he is not good enough to go pro early in his career.

"I recruit the best players we can recruit and try to help those kids," Calipari said. "If that includes two or three or four year guys, that's fine. Would I rather do this like I did back in UMass? Yeah. I'd rather coach guys. It's not what the environment is.

"So now you lose the game and all of a sudden this is the (narrative). What? You've been to more Final Fours. How many league tournaments have we won with all young guys? I mean, come on now. I'm not panicked. It sounds like some people are panicked. I am not. I love this."

Green elected to transfer this week after playing less than a minute in the second half and overtime of UK's loss to Seton Hall. The sophomore guard, once pointed to as a needed source of 3-point shooting, experience and leadership, had seen his minutes drop to eight and 10 in the last two games.

Calipari said he was surprised by the decision and even tried to talk Green into playing against Utah and North Carolina while weighing his options before the spring semester.

"It is disappointing for me when young people want to leave, but he'll be treated the same way and I would tell our fans be positive, be upbeat with him," Calipari said. "You think about all the kids that have left here that we stayed in touch with. I told he and his family, I'm going to be here for you, but I said, this next choice you make is probably bigger than the last choice. You got to think it through in how you want to play."

With Green gone, Kentucky might turn to redshirt freshman guard Jemarl Baker to help replace some of his scoring ability.

But even if the rotation shrinks and Baker remains on the bench, Calipari remains confident his team is headed in the right direction.

Help arriving?: Can Jemarl Baker help address Kentucky's shooting problem?

"If we had done what we needed to do to finish the (Seton Hall) game, we would've won the game and everything would've been different," he said. "I wouldn't be getting the same questions I'm getting now: You need four-year players, you need five-year players. Matter of fact,

keep them two, put them on a mission and let's keep them for six years.

"You wouldn't be coming at me that way, and I'm saying to you guys 'I'm looking like we won the game.' So we're not that far off. We got better. That game, we improved."

Is Keldon Johnson ready to become the go-to player Kentucky needs?

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Dec. 17

Through 39 minutes and 59 seconds of Kentucky's loss to Seton Hall it would have been easy to forget freshman Keldon Johnson was on the floor.

But since Johnson hit a desperation halfcourt heave to send that game into overtime, he has begun to look like the type of game-changing player Kentucky needs to move past its middling results of the first semester.

"I'm not afraid to take a big shot or step up in big moments," Johnson said Saturday after Kentucky's 88-61 win over Utah. "If my team ever needs me to get a bucket or make a big stop on defense, I can be that man."

After starting the Seton Hall game 1-for-5 from the field, Johnson sent the game to overtime and scored five of Kentucky's 13 points in the extra period. His 3-pointer with 42 seconds remaining gave the Wildcats' their only lead of overtime.

While Johnson's second attempt at a buzzer beater was off target in overtime against Seton Hall, he carried the late momentum established at Madison Square Garden into the Utah game, hitting his first five 3-pointers en route to a team-high 24 points on 8-of-9 shooting.

Since the halfcourt shot at the end of regulation against Seton Hall, Johnson is 11-for-13 from the field and 8-for-10 from 3-point range.

"His whole thing is: You know, you can't just play hard in spurts and then stay in the game," UK coach John Calipari said. "You can play hard in spurts and sub yourself. But, he's learning. He's fine."

Even when Kentucky looked like one of the best teams in the country after a dominating preseason exhibition series in the Bahamas in August, Calipari wondered aloud which players on his team could develop into the type of talents capable of taking over games.

Sophomore forward PJ Washington has looked like that player at times but is still plagued by inconsistency. Graduate student Reid Travis has been the Wildcats' most consistent presence through the fall semester but needs his teammates to find him in the post to make the most of his abilities.

As the Wildcats' highest-rated 2019 NBA draft prospect, Johnson seems the logical option to be Kentucky's game-breaker.

He certainly looked the part against Utah when he silenced an early 10-0 run from the Utes with his first 3-pointer or when he almost single-handedly turned a tie game into a 9-point lead with four more 3-pointers in a four-minute span later in the first half.

"I'm shooting the ball with confidence," Johnson said. "My teammates just kept telling me to keep shooting, don't think about it, and just let it go. After I hit the first shot, I knew it was going to be a good day."

With Quade Green transferring and freshman guards Tyler Herro and Immanuel Quickley shooting a combined 29.7 percent from 3-point range, Johnson's sudden hot streak has offered a much-needed boost to a Kentucky squad still ranked 338th in the country in percentage of points scored from 3-point range (22).

Before the Seton Hall halfcourt shot, Johnson was shooting just 27.3 percent (6-for-22) from 3-point range. He has since raised his season mark to a team-best 43.8 percent among UK players with at least 20 3-point attempts.

"When we're making threes like that, it's a hard deal," Calipari said.

Before the Utah game, Johnson had not hit more than two 3-pointers in a game this season. Still, he had twice topped the 20-point plateau while converting just 1 of 5 3-pointers in those games. He was the only UK freshman who looked up to the task in the season-opening blowout loss to Duke with 23 points on 8 of 16 shooting.

That kind of offensive versatility makes Johnson a dangerous weapon for opponents to defend. When his teammates are willing to find him open shots like they did against Utah, Johnson is all the more capable.

"I think we took away one of the facets of the game and we were willing to live with some of those 3s..." Utah coach Larry Krystkowiak said. "Credit for shooting. No doubt. By the numbers, he's certainly getting to the free throw line, getting to the rim kind of guy more than he is an open 3(-point shooter). When you play a team like Kentucky I think with enough different weapons, certainly those guys have it in them do to some different things. We were trying to play the numbers and it didn't work out in our favor."

Perfectionist Immanuel Quickley now playing through mistakes

By: Darrell Bird | The Cats' Paulse | Dec. 21

John Calipari has faced a variety of challenges when developing freshmen at Kentucky, but Immanuel Quickley is proving to be a unique and fascinating test.

His crime against humanity? Perfection.

"Immanuel, I put on the board today, 'Do not try to be perfect, just play ball,'" Calipari said following UK's 88-61 rout of Utah.

"He tries to be perfect, which puts him on his heels," Calipari explained. "I keep telling him, 'You can't. You're not going to be perfect. You just try to make less mistakes than the other team. You try to miss less shots on the other team, but you're not going to be perfect.'"

Against Utah, Quickley scored 12 points. It was his first double-digit game since going for 15 and 12 against Southern Illinois and North Dakota in the second and third games of the season. He has also made four of his last six 3-point attempts, ending a 2-for-12 slump.

By no coincidence, over the same time frame Quickley has been coming to terms with trying to be perfect.

"At times, I do try to be perfect a little too much," Quickley admitted. "I try to be, but I'm finding out real quick that I'm not. You're going to make mistakes throughout the game. Knowing that I'm not going to be perfect is one thing that's helped me along my way as a freshman."

Calipari had one other player who fought the perfectionism demon, eventual NBA first-round draft pick Derrick Rose at Memphis.

"Derrick Rose would get so mad at himself, but Immanuel gets tentative, so it's different," Calipari said. "Like if you want to get mad at yourself, I can deal with that. That means I don't have to get mad at you. Then I have to more pick you up and say, "Stop, you're fine.' But you can't get tentative."

The challenge is especially tough for a freshman point guard.

"A high school player will catch a ball and the coach says, 'Stop.' And you look at him and he says, 'Tell me where all the players

are. Your teammates.' He'll say, 'What players?' He'll have no idea," Calipari said.

"But if you ask that to Steve Nash, he would turn and say, "My center's there, my guard's on the weak side, my 3-man is there and my 4-man is the high post." Seeing the court," Calipari said. "So as Immanuel begins to do that, he will process less and react more and be able to let loose a little bit."

Another challenge for Quickley in battling perfectionism is understanding he is not solely responsible for whether or not the play is a success and the ball falls through the hoop.

"In high school, you make all the plays," Quickley said. "But at Kentucky, you've got four other guys on the floor with you at all times who are capable of making the same play as you. So you try to be unselfish and get them shots. The trust was there, it's just getting better."

"They are just used to when they get the ball, I make a play," Calipari said. "Well, think about having five guys think that. 'So when I get it, I make a play.' Well, you get no ball movement. You have no willing passers. That's where we've been and we're moving by it."

Willing passers has been Calipari's go-to phrase in recent days.

"We're just working every day to make us willing passers," the coach said. "You have to see it to be willing, and the second thing is, they are not selfish."

Quickley is seeing blue skies emerge.

"I think we are willing passers, it's just new playing with each other," he said. "Most of us are freshmen or sophomores. It's a mindset, trying to get each other involved and get others shots.

"I think we've come a far way, especially on defense," he said. "We're talking more. The energy is better. We're more positive. I think we've come a long way. And as the season goes on, I think you're seeing us get better. We'll continue to trust each other more."

Perfect.

Kentucky sends strong message against North Carolina

By: Myron Medcalf | ESPN | Dec. 22

CHICAGO -- As Kentucky's stars screamed profanity-laced declarations during a late timeout Saturday, the team's reserves spilled onto the United Center floor and celebrated with them toward the end of an 80-72 win over No. 9 North Carolina.

The No. 19 Wildcats had just bullied a legit top-10 squad and reset expectations after a rocky start generated concerns about the program's SEC title aspirations and NCAA tournament staying power. But Kentucky has embraced opportunities on the game's grandest stages.

Saturday, amid doubts about their potential, the Wildcats sent a midseason message to the field: We're getting better and, maybe, growing into a national title contender.

Well, that version of the Cats, at least.

"We're not the same team we were two weeks ago," head coach John Calipari said. "Not even close. We lost to Seton Hall [two weeks ago], but we got better."

The Tar Heels entered Saturday's game as the newest member of college basketball's fluid "They Can Win It All, Too" category after a 103-90 victory over Gonzaga last week. With Luke Maye, a preseason All-American; Cam Johnson, the reigning ACC player of the week after his 6-for-8 effort from the 3-point line against the Bulldogs; and a fleet of capable contributors, the Tar Heels could win the ACC title and compete for Roy Williams' fourth national crown.

Kentucky entered Saturday's game still surrounded by a stench.

Last month, Kentucky suffered its lowest moment in years and the worst night in Calipari's coaching career during a 34-point loss against Duke in the Champions Classic, 186 miles from the United Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The obituary for the Wildcats of 2018-19 was written that day. Another fancy recruiting class full of five-star prospects had come to Lexington and fallen short of expectations -- after the first game of the season. An overtime loss to Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden earlier this month punctuated the concerns about the team's potential, rooted in the loss to Duke.

"It's amazing, because we had the ball up three with 1:30 to go in New York and somehow gave that game away," Calipari said. "If we had won that game, we wouldn't have all this craziness, but this is Kentucky. Good luck."

That's why Saturday's win mattered for the Wildcats.

The Duke loss showcased the basement for a program that has committed turnovers on one-fifth of its possessions this season and committed 15 against the Blue Devils. But the victory over North Carolina magnified how good Kentucky can be -- and might be -- at its best.

Ashton Hagans (seven steals) was a defensive tyrant, and "in some ways, he was more dominant than anyone," according to Roy Williams.

In the second half, Reid Travis grabbed Sterling Manley's jersey with two fingers and flung him across the lane. The Stanford grad transfer was too strong for North Carolina. He finished with 20 points and six rebounds. PJ Washington hit a significant 3-pointer in the second half and helped the Wildcats keep one of the most dominant rebounding teams in America from accruing second-chance points from offensive boards. Tyler Herro hit big shots, too.

And Keldon Johnson, who led all scorers with 21 points, resembled the aggressive wings -- Malik Monk, Devin Booker -- who have led past Kentucky squads under Calipari.

In a game that had a must-win vibe, Kentucky played its most important basketball to date.

Duke has Zion Williamson, Cam Reddish, RJ Barrett and Tre Jones. Tennessee beat Gonzaga, a sign the Vols could make a run to the Final Four in Minneapolis. Gonzaga, still missing Killian Tillie, is the only team with a win over Duke. Kansas is undefeated. Michigan is possibly more imposing than last year's team that reached the national title game. Nevada has a chance to run the table. Texas Tech, which has the nation's best defense, tussled with Duke in a thriller at Madison Square Garden on Thursday.

As the buzz about the best teams in America has intensified, Kentucky has been relatively absent from the dialogue. Saturday changed that. But Saturday's win was also important for Kentucky's résumé. The squad, which started this season ranked in the 60s of the NCAA's new NET rankings, had not scored a signature victory before the win over the Tar Heels.

It seemed Kentucky had momentarily lost its spot among the elite in the 2018-19 season. On Saturday, however, the Wildcats were welcomed back with an impressive performance against a good North Carolina squad.

"I think we came out and were very aggressive and put into play everything we did in practice," Johnson said. "It was a big-time win."

Why Ashton Hagans (who else?) was at the center of Kentucky's first big win of the season

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Dec. 23

CHICAGO — Fittingly, Coby White was half-dressed as he stood in the North Carolina locker room Saturday night explaining how Kentucky point guard Ashton Hagans had just exposed him. He wore a dour expression and not much else until a question came that made him laugh out loud: Is this the best you've seen Hagans play?

"Nahhhhhhh," White said, shaking his head and grinning as he let the word stretch out for emphasis. "I've seen him play really well before."

Having battled Hagans at several camps for elite high school prospects in summers past, White wasn't nearly as surprised as everybody else by what the freshman did to him and the No. 9 Tar Heels on this national stage: a school-record eight steals (plus seven points, four rebounds, three assists and a block) in an 80-72 Wildcats win at the CBS Sports Classic. White, a 6-foot-5 McDonald's All-American freshman, had scored 33 points on Texas, had 19 points and eight assists against UCLA, shot 50 percent with one turnover against Michigan and delivered 15 points and six dimes in a win over Gonzaga just last week.

His was the name everyone knew coming into Saturday's showdown, but all that did was "put a target on" White, an increasingly confident Hagans said two days earlier. "I'm going out there and try to stop that. I'm trying to go out there and make a name for myself and my team." This was, after all, No. 19 Kentucky's first chance to prove itself poised enough to play with the big boys since an opening-night, 118-84 face plant against Duke.

Mission accomplished.

White made only three shots and missed eight against Kentucky. He scored just eight points, all but two of which came while Hagans was resting or getting a turned ankle taped on the bench. White had more turnovers than assists, and at times looked like a wide receiver who was afraid to go over the middle, which makes sense because Hagans (a pretty good football player in his youth) looked like a ball-hawking safety stepping in front of passes all night.

"I knew what type of defender he was and I knew that he takes pride in it," White said. "He's good on and off the ball, really gets in the passing lane, really knows how to use his length." But don't think that this was peak Hagans. The man with no pants laughed at that notion. "The offense will come — he'll figure it out — but Ashton is a really good player who knows how to lead a team and get everybody involved," White continued. "I think he's just getting started."

Therein lies the biggest reason Kentucky fans can dream again about what this team might still become. More than Keldon Johnson (21 points) heating up from beyond the arc and Reid Travis (20 points) being unstoppable in the paint, more than PJ Washington (11 points, 10 rebounds, 8 assists) acting like the ultimate team player and even more than the Wildcats controlling ninth-ranked North Carolina from start to finish (they led for 35 minutes), the emergence of Hagans as a two-way catalyst could be transformative. He might just be the key to unlocking all that preseason potential everyone saw in this team.

"The amazing thing," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said, "is I look down and Ashton Hagans is 2 for 6, seven points, and I thought in some ways he was more dominating in the game than anybody."

Remember the last guy Kentucky had who could drain the life out of an opponent even when he couldn't make the ball go through the hoop? Think Anthony Davis in the 2012 national championship game. That is perhaps an unfair comparison, but Hagans did just tie Rajon Rondo and Wayne Turner's school record for steals in a game. His shot is still not falling — and his assist total suffered from teammates' wide-open misses Saturday — but Hagans did exactly as commanded against the Tar Heels: attack on both ends.

Moments before the Wildcats took the court at United Center, as players gathered in a hallway to stretch and get loose, Hagans offered a prescient thought to his teammates. "The aggressor wins," he said. "The aggressor wins," he repeated. "The aggressor wins."

On North Carolina's first possession of the game, Hagans picked off a pass intended for White and cruised in for a layup. The tone was set. Offensively, Hagans faithfully followed coach John Calipari's recent order to either drive and score or drive and dish — so long as he drives, drives, drives. It's meant to simplify his role, free his mind and unleash his elite speed and athleticism. Hagans got into the paint at will Saturday, sending the Tar Heels' defense into disarray almost every time.

"He's a very gifted young man," Williams said. "His shooting percentage from deep is not good, but boy, he attacks the basket and passes the ball like crazy and plays with a reckless abandon."

That was evident on Hagans' record-tying steal in the final seconds, when the outcome was already a virtual certainty. He nearly intercepted an inbounds pass, saved it back to the Tar Heels as he fell into his own bench, popped back up and raced to the other end just in time to lunge in front of another pass and corral it. He did all that on an aching ankle, which he rolled with eight minutes to go in the first half on an almost-steal that turned into an actual steal when he hobbled back into the action, swiped at the ball, pushed it to the other end and threw a lob to Washington for a dunk that brought the traveling horde of UK fans to a boil.

The word for guys like that is contagious, and teammate Tyler Herro used it to describe the way Kentucky followed Hagans' lead as willing passers and lockdown defenders. "You can just see it rubbing off on everybody," added Johnson, whose own offensive explosion — 13 of 21 from 3-point range the last four games — is a close second on the list of reasons to believe the Cats can become Final Four contenders by March.

They had 24 assists on 28 made field goals and held UNC to 72 points exactly a week after it hung 103 on Gonzaga. The Tar Heels had scored 90-plus seven times in 10 games. "They were tougher than us," White admitted afterward. "They played harder than us." And it all started with Hagans.

"When Ashton is doing that," Herro said, "we're going to be tough to beat because of what [stress] he puts on the other team."

Hagans' energy is rubbing off on his teammates.

The amazing thing, as North Carolina's coach might say, is that Hagans would still be in high school right now had he not reclassified this summer. So maybe it was unfair to expect him, 5-star rating and all, to play like so many past Calipari point guards right out of the gate. But he sure seems to be getting closer these days.

"Yeah, he is," Calipari said. "I'm putting the ball in his hands and he's making the right plays. It was a small tweak that we made about a week ago and when I watched it, I said, 'OK we got this now.' He's making the game easy for everybody."

Remember when there was actually a debate over whether Immanuel Quickley (five-star freshman) or Quade Green (five-star sophomore) should start over Hagans? That's done now. Quickley struggles to stay in front of opposing point guards — his shot is also unreliable at the moment – and Green abruptly transferred to Washington last week. But that's all fine, because if Kentucky was going to make a major jump from the Nov. 6 debacle against the Blue Devils to the end of the season when it really matters, that was always going to be due in large part to Hagans hitting his stride.

Now, before the calendar even turns to 2019, the Cats have a signature win on their NCAA Tournament resume and a chance to get another one next week at rival Louisville.

"We're getting better," Calipari said. "I keep saying — I told them for two days — we're not the same team we were two weeks ago. It's not even close. And hopefully two weeks from now, we're not going to be the same team we are today."

If Hagans stays on his current trajectory, they won't be. Imagine if he starts finishing a few of those drives. Consider what the Wildcats become if he gets back to what made him so terrifying in high school: blowing by guys with the intent to dunk all over whoever was waiting at the rim. Hagans admitted this week that with so much talent around him now at Kentucky, he has become perhaps too passive on offense, deferring when he could dominate in certain situations.

"In high school, it was really like just me and another dude, but on this team we've got a lot of key players," he said. Striking the perfect balance between getting his when it's there and giving it up when it isn't takes time. The kid's college career is now 11 games old. "You just gotta get comfortable."

As he does, there are still better days ahead for Hagans and the Wildcats. Even UNC's White, freshly pantsed by UK's rising star, believes that.

A la Josh Allen, PJ Washington showing he made right choice to return

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 26

Last spring, Kentucky football's Josh Allen made an important decision. Instead of leaving school early for the NFL Draft, the outside linebacker opted to return for another season, expand his skills and improve his stock. Needless to say, the decision has paid off.

Can the same thing be happening for Allen's friend, PJ Washington?

Two months after Allen's decision, Washington faced a similar choice. The freshman forward could remain in the NBA Draft pool or return to school, expand his game and improve his stock. Like Allen, Washington chose the latter. And with Kentucky traveling to Louisville on Saturday, if Washington's impact hasn't quite met the lofty "Player of the Year" heights of a Josh Allen, the sophomore from Texas has certainly upped his game.

In fact, nearly lost in the midst of Ashton Hagans' eight steals, Keldon Johnson's 21 points and Reid Travis' 20 was Washington's near triple-double in Kentucky's impressive 80-72 victory over North Carolina in last Saturday's CBS Sports Classic in Chicago.

Washington finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds and a career-high eight assists. It was his fourth double-double of the season, passing the three double-doubles he recorded his freshman season. And his performance was of a piece with the improvement Washington has shown throughout the current campaign.

Last season, Washington shot 51.9 percent from the floor. This year, he's shooting 52 percent. Last year, Washington shot just 23.8 percent from three-point range. This year, he's shooting 45 percent. Last year, Washington shot 60.6 percent from the foul line. This year, he's shooting 70 percent. His points per game average has gone from 10.8 last season to 13.3 this year. His rebounds have improved from 5.7 to 8.5. His assists are up from 1.5 to 2.3.

The three-point number particularly sticks out. A season ago, Washington was more of a back-to-the-basket operator, scoring most of his points around the rim. He attempted 21 three-point shots all season, including just one in the final 13 games. NBA scouts had legitimate questions about Washington's shooting range.

This season, Washington has already taken 20 three-point shots, making nine. He was 4-of-5 from three in the Cats' early-season romp over North Dakota. Last Saturday, when North Carolina sliced UK's lead to 66-60 with 6:48 left, Hagans turned a backcourt steal into a Washington three from the top of the key that pushed Kentucky's cushion to nine points.

"PJ did a little bit of everything, which is what we wanted," said UK Coach John Calipari afterward. "He scored, rebounded, he had assists, but that's who he should be."

Many of the assists were of the "big-to-big" variety. Washington either fed Travis in the post, or drove to draw defenders only to drop the ball off to his open teammate for the easy two.

"I think their big guys looked for each other," said North Carolina Coach Roy Williams. "It's a little bit of a buddy system, which is what we try to do, which is one big guy gets the ball and another big guy goes to the front of the rim and makes himself available."

We already knew Washington can score. He scored a career-high 29 points while grabbing 12 rebounds in UK's overtime loss to Seton Hall. Afterward, however, Calipari wasn't satisfied, saying Washington should be a "35 and 20" player every night. That's a Calipari exaggeration for effect, but you get his point.

"Contrary to most people, I believe PJ Washington is a dominant basketball player who is super-talented that can put his team on his back," Payne said. "I think there's a 'He is a solid, good college player, and that's good enough.' That's not good enough. Not for this program. Not for who and what his talent is."

Like Allen, Washington is showing more and more of that talent.

Tyler Herro steps up to lead Kentucky basketball's win over Louisville

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Dec. 29

Tyler Herro knows something about playing the role of the villain.

The Milwaukee native played the majority of his high school senior season with the ire of the homestate Badgers' fan base directed his way for decommitting from Wisconsin so he could play for a "blue blood" program.

He thrived on that hatred back then, averaging more than 30 points a game on the preps scene.

So, it should come as no surprise that after being greeted by a thundering chorus of boos when his name was called during the starting lineup announcement for his first college road game at Louisville, Herro responded by posting his best performance to date with 24 points on 10-of-13 shooting in a 71-58 Kentucky win.

"Tyler has just got a swagger," freshman point guard Ashton Hagans said. "He's going to go out there and play daily."

After leading Kentucky in scoring in its four August exhibition games in the Bahamas, Herro has struggled to find a rhythm for much of the first semester.

There were moments of promise like his 18 points against UNC Greensboro and 17 points against Utah, but he entered Saturday's game shooting 42.5 percent from the field and 29.3 percent (17 for 58) from 3-point range, 15 percentage points lower than his numbers in both categories in the Bahamas.

Against Louisville, Herro scored at will from all levels with layups, mid-range floaters and a 4-for-6 mark from 3-point range.

"I was out there just having fun, playing inside the game," Herro said. "I just let the game come to me today. It felt good to see a few shots go down for once."

Herro had scored in double figures in five straight games before Louisville but had shot better than 50 percent from the field just twice in that span and only once made at least 40 percent of his 3-point attempts.

"There's been some games that he didn't thrive," UK coach John Calipari said of Herro. "In Seton Hall, and there's some other games where he wasn't thriving. But I'm trying to say to him and Keldon (Johnson), 'What do you do to help us win when you're not making shots?' So, you don't make shots. Don't worry about it. Do all the other stuff to help us win ball games."

Herro had followed that direction by ranking second on the team in assists and steals entering the afternoon. Against Louisville, he crashed the glass for five rebounds to go with two steals, one assist and one block.

His production made up for a rare off night from graduate student Reid Travis – just the third time the Stanford transfer failed to reach double digits in points this season – and added to the growing list of reasons to be bullish on Kentucky's trajectory entering Southeastern Conference play.

"I sort of feel like it feels like the Bahamas again where we're having fun and we're going out there and competing," Herro said. "I kind of get that vibe again. … We're going in the right direction, but like Coach says, we're just building for March."

In back-to-back wins over North Carolina and Louisville, Calipari has begun to shorten his rotation while zeroing in on the roles individual players need to fill for the team to reach its potential.

Travis and Johnson have established themselves as Kentucky's go-to scorers, but the two victories showed how contributions from the Wildcats' other starters can turn a team that looked average for much of the last two months to possibly elite again.

Much of the resurgence can be attributed to Hagans creating shots for his teammates and playing lockdown defense, but when Herro scores as he did against Louisville, the spacing on the offensive end improves and Hagans is even better able to distribute or turn his driving ability into open layups as he did in the second half to clinch the win Saturday.

"I don't think his percentage relays the fact that he's a good shooter, but we knew he was," Louisville coach Chris Mack said. "You could see that in their foreign trip (to the Bahamas). And obviously, Coach Cal has the confidence to continue to go to him. … I don't think I've seen a game where he's made two 3s in a row all year and he did tonight. He's a good player."

With an SEC schedule featuring road games at four teams currently ranked in the top 30 by advanced metrics website KenPom.com, Herro's ability to thrive under pressure could be an even bigger boost to the Wildcats' chances to prove worthy of a top-two seed in the NCAA Tournament.

It's a role Herro is comfortable with, and apparently one he's ready to play again.

"It's always fun to go out there and be the guy they're going against," Herro said with a smile. "It's fun."

Hagans comes alive offensively at U of L. It's a scary thought for UK's future foes

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec. 29

LOUISVILLE -- Watching a game in which their Cardinals could never quite break through, the Yum Center crowd kept clinging to hope wherever they could find it Saturday.

A bucket by Steven Enoch with just under 10 minutes left provided the last glimmer, pulling U of L within nine points of rival Kentucky, a 50-41 score that brought Louisville's fans to their feet, roaring with delight and rooting on their Cards.

That margin lasted 15 seconds. Ashton Hagans made certain of that.

Hagans — UK's freshman point guard and the defensive star of the previous weekend's victory over North Carolina — let loose with an improbable jumper that quieted the crowd. Exactly 30 seconds later — and following a missed three on Louisville's end — Hagans drove the lane and finished with a layup.

A quieted Card Nation took a collective seat, and their team never got back within single digits.

Hagans had a slow start to this season, coming off the bench for most of it and playing no more than 21 minutes in any game until December. He was often hesitant on offense, struggled to play at multiple speeds and was inconsistent overall.

More recently, he started to emerge as a major defensive threat, gaining praise from John Calipari for his off-the-ball defending against UNC Greensboro, playing a then-career-high 28 minutes that day. Two weeks later, he dished out a career-high seven assists against Utah. The week after that, he tied UK's all-time record with eight steals — playing a career-high 31 minutes — in that turning-point victory over the Tar Heels.

On Saturday in Louisville, he again excelled on defense, smothering U of L point guard Christen Cunningham at the beginning and finishing with a team-high three steals in a 71-58 win.

There was still some hesitation offensively, though. In the first half, he passed on some open lanes, took a tick too long to get off some open shots. By halftime, he had just one point.

"At the beginning of the game, they were playing me for my pass," Hagans said of the Cards. "So I came out, and (the coaches) were talking to me, 'Attack, attack.' So I just started attacking more. I saw that the lane was open."

On one play, in particular, Hagans mustered up the confidence to call his own number.

"If you watched him," Calipari recalled,

"he came over and looked at me and said, 'Coach, fist out.'"

"Run it," Calipari told him.

"I just saw the lane open, and I took the layup," Hagans said, finishing the story.

That kind of confidence has been spreading in recent weeks.

"This is becoming a player-driven team," Calipari said. "They're not quite empowered yet, because they don't hold each other accountable enough yet to be empowered totally. But it is a player-driven team. Practices have been player-driven. It's not me now. It's not me having to get 'em going or make 'em play."

Oftentimes, it's Hagans.

"The guys tell me a lot that they need me on the floor, that they feed off me," he said. "That means a lot to me, knowing that the guys are with me through the whole 40 minutes."

Hagans tied Tyler Herro with a team-high 10 points in the second half Saturday — he'd never scored more than eight in any full game before that — and played with a confidence that has clearly been lacking on that end of the floor.

The point guard said his coach has "changed things a little bit" offensively, letting his Cats play a "more free" brand of basketball. It's one that suits Hagans' speed, creativity and decision-making well, and the results are starting to show.

"Starting off, I was just playing in a little shell," he said. "Now Cal has opened up the offense more, got us playing a little bit more free. He's just letting me play my game more."

Herro — not at all shy on the offensive end — said Hagans has shown what he's capable of in practice. Now, everyone else is getting to see it. According to Herro, the rest of the Cats have been telling Hagans to keep making plays for them, but to look for his own scoring opportunities, too. "He's been looking to pass too much," Herro said. Calipari has apparently said the same.

"With him playing downhill and getting to the bucket, doing what he does, it's incredible for us," Herro added. "What he did tonight, and what he did against North Carolina, we're starting to see what Ashton is really about and what he's capable of doing."

Hagans already has a defensive ability that Louisville head coach Chris Mack called "dominant" the day before Saturday's game. Now, he might be finding an offensive identity that could make these Wildcats scary indeed.

"I love defense, so that's just what I try to work on more," Hagans said. "Because I know that I can bring it on the defensive side and help my teammates get the easy basket. But I'm just trying to work on my game more on the offensive end. Get my shot better, and just keep attacking.

"As it goes along, I'm just staying in the gym working on my shot. I've been getting in the gym with coaches. But I just have to keep building my confidence."

That jumper against the Cards on Saturday — the one that had Louisville fans looking for their seats — must have been quite the confidence-builder.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah," Hagans said, his smile getting bigger with each affirmation. "Definitely."

Swaggy Cal and his equally swaggy Cats are back

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Dec. 29

LOUISVILLE – Remember when Kentucky basketball was a summertime sensation, a steamrolling, chest-bumping, shot-swishing, slam-dunking machine made of five-star parts and powered by rocket fuel-grade swagger? You know, before Duke pulled up in a Death Star and reduced the Wildcats to a mangled mess of scrap metal on opening night?

After a few touch-and-go weeks in the shop for intensive repairs, bordering on a total rebuild, John Calipari's team looks fully restored after roaring back into the national spotlight the last two weekends with marquee wins away from home, 80-72 over North Carolina in Chicago last week and 71-58 at rival Louisville on Saturday. The Wildcats led the Tar Heels for 35 minutes and the Cardinals for 36 – which is to say they were in control of both games from start to finish.

"It feels like the Bahamas again, where we're having fun and just going out there and competing," said freshman Tyler Herro, whose long and frustrating search for his shooting stroke ended at the KFC Yum! Center. He hit 10 of 13 shots, 4 of 6 3-pointers, and poured in 24 points against the Cardinals. With panache. After swishing an early trey, he danced to the sideline flexing, howling and showing off his version of the Pedro Cerrano big balls dance from "Major League" – dropping his three-goggles hand gesture down between his legs in a display of cockiness not seen since Kentucky was playing preseason games in the ballroom of a beach resort. "We're kind of getting that vibe again," Herro said.

This is the team Calipari thought he had after a rollicking series of exhibition blowouts against foreign professional teams in the Bahamas back in August. Since being obliterated by the Blue Devils, he's been asked repeatedly what was different about his team back then. On Saturday, that question took on a different tone: How has Kentucky found its summertime groove again?

"I was trying to schedule those teams (for the regular season)," Calipari joked after improving to 10-2 in the rivalry and giving new U of L coach Chris Mack a rather rude welcome to the series. If the Cats could just play those exhibition opponents all the time, Calipari said, "we're going to be confident and happy and everybody is going to do their thing."

His point was that everyone, including him, probably overreacted to those mostly meaningless games. And he's right that none of those teams holds a candle to Duke, but it's also a little too dismissive. Kentucky demolished Mega Bemax, a Serbian pro team with multiple NBA prospects on the roster, by 36 points on that trip. Michigan, which is undefeated and ranked No. 2 in the country, lost to Mega Bemax less than two weeks later. That's not nothing.

Perhaps more notably, though, there was something about the way the Wildcats leaned into that particular matchup, wanted the challenge, looked hell-bent on demoralizing this team that everyone said could be a problem for them, and seemed to delight in every moment of that total evisceration. It was hard to watch that romp and not buy the hype.

"I said, 'I'm not intoxicated by what happened down there,' but I probably was," Calipari now admits. "The beginning of this year, we were a bad defensive team. We had a bunch of unwilling passers. We had guys that were so focused on themselves that they couldn't play for us. I missed it as a coach. But after I saw it, I was like, 'All right, we're going back to these things and we're going to get better at this stuff.' There are times I make mistakes (and) if you screw up, you've got to start all over."

The last five games have been a slow rebuild: a 17-point win over a quality UNC Greensboro team, in which freshman

Ashton Hagans announced his arrival as an elite defender; a one-point overtime loss to Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden, a setback but one in which freshman Keldon Johnson announced he is willing to take and able to make clutch shots; a home rout of Utah to get a jolt of confidence, then an all-cylinders showcase against North Carolina that reminded America these guys still have a bunch of really nice pieces. (Along the way, they swapped out one for another, as guard Quade Green transferred abruptly but the injured Jemarl Baker stepped in and started swishing 3-pointers, which he did again on Saturday.)

Reid Travis, a grad transfer from Stanford whose fingernail-slashed arms look like he's been attacked with a box cutter, has embraced his role as the bully on the block. Sophomore PJ Washington, who was two assists shy of a triple-double against the Tar Heels and swatted four shots against the Cardinals, looks as if he's listening to NBA evaluators' advice for a skilled-but-undersized power forward: Be Draymond Green.

And Hagans? Oh, my, Hagans. The former No. 1-ranked point guard recruit, who if not for reclassifying this summer would still be in high school, finally gets what Calipari wants from him: suffocate the other guy on defense, attack the other guy on offense. That's it, and that's all. And with his freakish speed and athleticism, it makes him – and Kentucky – a nightmare. He has 11 steals in the last two games, including a leaping, one-handed interception (his Odell Beckham, he calls it) against Louisville. Hagans finished with 11 points, three steals, three assists and just one turnover on Saturday, but his impact was far greater than the box score might indicate, unless you're looking at the part where the Cats outscored the Cards by 14 points in his 24 minutes on the floor.

One huge development: Late in the game, Hagans called his own number for the first time since high school.

"He came over, looked at me and said, 'Coach, fist down.' I said, 'Run it,' and he went and scored a layup," Calipari said. That's a pick-and-roll play designed to get Hagans going downhill. He scored on consecutive blow-buckets to help seal the victory. "This is becoming a player-driven team," Calipari said. Also, a coach-trusted team.

"He's letting me play now," Hagans said. "I'm really just letting him know that I can do it and going to him more. That's just me being a leader and stepping up."

As Kentucky transforms, it has become obvious that this team feeds off of Hagans' energy. In the hallway before the North Carolina game, he marched up and down telling his teammates, "The aggressor wins," and the aggressor did. Before Saturday's game at Louisville, he laced up a pair of custom Nikes with "No Mercy" on the sides, a listing of UK's championship seasons down the laces and L's down – a sign of disrespect for the rival – on the tongues. He said officials made him change out of those shoes before tipoff (although a UK spokesman believes Hagans might've been confused about an issue with his tights, not his shoes), but Hagans delivered his message.

When the wire-to-wire victory was done, he strutted off the court and through the tunnel, grinning wide as he formed two upsides down Ls with his hands. Several teammates followed his lead.

"We're going back to playing as a team," Hagans said. "In the Bahamas, we were playing together; whatever the coaches were telling us to do, that's what we were doing. These past couple games, that's what we've done, played together, come along as a brotherhood, and just sticking to what the coaches tell us."

Well, mostly. Hagans was so wound up that he almost got in a fight on Saturday, which sent Calipari into a postgame tirade. Most of these guys are still freshmen, after all, and are still going to act like it sometimes. There are almost certainly more growing pains ahead as Kentucky prepares to run the SEC gauntlet beginning next week – and a Rupp Arena showdown against Kansas on Jan. 26 for good measure. But suddenly you don't have to squint too hard to see these Wildcats putting it all together in time for a deep run in March.

"The Duke game was the first game of the season. We're not focused on that at all," Herro said. "And the Seton Hall game, that game goes either way; we win that game, we're probably in the top five right now. So we're going in the right direction. Last game was a stepping stone, and today I think we made a big step."

Remember when Calipari felt so good about his team this summer that Swaggy Cal made an appearance? When he was talking like he knew there was something special brewing and the rest of us were about to find out? He sounded a little like that guy again on Saturday as he launched into a rant about the "crazy" portion of his fan base, joking that there is "no room on the bandwagon" for those who wrote off this team weeks ago.

"I never lost confidence in the kids. I told them that, 'but you're going to have to play different,' " he said. And now they have. "I got a good team. I mean, I've had a good team."

Kentucky, no longer haunted by Duke defeat, making progress toward rejoining elite

By: Mike DeCourcy | Sporting News | Dec. 30

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The idle members of the Kentucky Wildcats were off the bench quickly when Louisville called timeout just 36.9 seconds before this game's inevitable end. It didn't matter whether they joined the UK huddle. There was little to discuss beyond whether to celebrate another win over U of L with a party or a quick trip to Qdoba. They got involved, anyway. This is a team again.

One could argue Kentucky always was a team, but at best it was a shattered team after the Wildcats were embarrassed by Duke in the season-opening game at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. You do not walk into a game with the No. 1 ranking and walk out with a 34-point defeat and simply move on to the next game.

"I've got a good team," coach John Calipari told reporters following UK's 71-58 dismissal Saturday of the rival Cardinals. "I mean, I've had a good team. I know our fans have loved us all season. Our fans have bragged about this team. There was no more room on the bandwagon!"

He was being facetious, of course. It has been a long journey to this point, to where Coach Cal could get away with being cheeky in his postgame presser.

Each step has been haunted, at least a little, by the Ghost of Zion. That specter has been so ominous, UK entered this game ranked No. 16 in the AP poll — two spots behind the North Carolina team the Wildcats beat by eight on a neutral floor just a day before the votes were gathered. And that was true even though UNC had an inferior record, with one fewer win and one more loss.

From the depths of that Duke defeat

to an 0-2 start against major-conference opponents — that included an early December loss to Seton Hall — to this commanding performance at the KFC Yum! Center, Kentucky has grown into the sort of basketball team it's more prudent to fear than mock.

"We've been over that Duke game for a while," wing Tyler Herro told Sporting News after scoring 24 points on 10-of-13 shooting, including four 3-pointers. "We had to get a big win like North Carolina then come here, get a road win like this. It was real important."

When Kentucky rolled through four televised exhibitions/demolitions on its August trip to the Bahamas, the Wildcats appeared to have the ingredients of another Final Four contender in this, Calipari's 10th season as their coach.

After Duke got done with them, the Wildcats labored to put away such teams as Southern Illinois, VMI and UNC Greensboro. And then they gave up 28 points to Seton Hall's Myles Powell and lost in overtime. Calipari told everyone he was not "intoxicated" by those early public appearances by the Wildcats last summer, but admitted following the Louisville game that he "probably" was.

"In the beginning of this year, we were a bad defensive team. We had a bunch of unwilling passers. In other words, I'm only passing if I don't have a shot. We had guys that were so focused on themselves they couldn't play for us," Calipari said. "And you know what? I missed it, as a coach. But after I saw it, I said, 'We're going back to these things and getting better at this stuff.'

"These kids are doing exactly what I'm asking of them."

The Wildcats have had only one game each of the past three weeks, all on Saturday afternoons: against Utah, then North Carolina, and this one against Louisville. That has left plenty of time for "Camp Cal," the nickname given to the Wildcats' multiple daily practices while classes are not in session, almost always a boost for a program that relies so much — 65 percent of minutes played Saturday — on freshman players.

"Most schools are probably sleeping in until practice," Herro said. "But we come in here every day and get up, 8:30 or 9, get in, get a practice, take a nap, come back and practice again and then spend some time with each other at night — I think that's brought us close together. He said when we started, 'You'll see how close and how much better we get throughout the process.'"

To gain an understanding of how complete Kentucky's performance was on this afternoon, go beyond the combined 39 points from Herro and fellow wing Keldon Johnson, and even the control point guard Ashton Hagans demonstrated with 11 points, three assists and another three steals, and check out the masterpiece delivered by sophomore forward PJ Washington.

He took only three shots because Kentucky adjusted to a three-man weave and more dribble drives after Calipari and his staff noticed the three freshmen on the perimeter were getting the ball comfortably to the lane. No matter. Washington dominated the game in every other way he could imagine, from blocking four shots (three of them against the player he was guarding) to leading UK with eight rebounds and passing for three assists. Oh, and holding Louisville's top scorer, Jordan Nwora, to 7-of-17 shooting and a single 3-pointer.

"My latest message — and it's just as much a holiday message — for them: If you create opportunities for others, you're going to create more opportunities for yourself," Calipari said. "A little bit spiritual, but it pertains to basketball, too.

"So PJ had eight assists last game. Are you seeing him play right now? He created for his teammates, and everybody talked about PJ. Ashton, all he's trying to do is run the team and get people involved, and they're talking about him. And so I'm telling the rest of the guys: If you're willing passers, if you create more for each other, you're going to create more for yourself. That is not only in basketball, it's in life."

This is Kentucky we're talking about, though. Basketball is life.

"Coach Cal" maybe forgot about that for a moment.

Immanuel Quickley continuing to find footing

By: Edward Lee | Baltimore Sun | Jan. 2

By the time Immanuel Quickley had wrapped up his basketball career at John Carroll in Bel Air last winter, he was lauded as The Baltimore Sun's All-Metro Player of the Year, a top-five point guard by several national scouting services and a McDonald's All-American.

And then the Havre de Grace resident began his freshman year at Kentucky, where the accolades were replaced by adjustments.

"It's been really interesting," Quickley said last week. "There's been a lot of ups and downs. It's a lot harder than I thought it was going to be — just the day-to-day grind. But it's been good overall. I've learned a lot of new stuff as a point guard that's getting me better."

Through 12 games, the 6-foot-3, 185-pound Quickley has been a fairly steady contributor for the Wildcats (10-2), who rank No. 13 in the most recent Associated Press men's basketball poll.

Quickley, 19, ranks sixth on Kentucky in scoring at 6.7 points per game, fifth in assists at 1.8 per game and seventh in rebounds at 2.0. He also owns the top vertical on the team at 37 inches.

At one point, Quickley started seven consecutive games, but has since been relegated to the bench each of the past four. He said he is not disappointed about losing a starting spot because he averaged more than 20 minutes in those four games as a reserve.

"I've helped the team coming off the bench any way I can," he said, noting he scored 12 points in an 88-61 victory over Utah on Dec. 15. "So it's not about not starting. It's about with the minutes I have, coming in and playing hard and playing well."

Wildcats coach John Calipari said the demotion to reserve is not a reflection of his assessment of Quickley's potential.

"He's really a conscientious kid, and I felt comfortable because I knew what I was getting," Calipari said of starting Quickley. "And then I brought him off the bench only because I wanted to take it off of him and let him be more comfortable. I also want to play him at the wings. I want him to be a point guard and a wing. So we're kind of playing him at both right now. It's always a work in progress all the way until April."

Immanuel Quickley at Kentucky

Quickley, who had a 3.6 GPA at John Carroll, said he has had to adapt to juggling his course schedule with two practices a day and weightlifting sessions. On the court, he has been trying to refine a shooting touch that has resulted in a .296 percentage from behind the 3-point arc.

"In high school, I was known as a shooter, and I still think I'm known as a shooter, but my numbers haven't been as good as far as the 3-point percentage or as

good as it could be," he said. "So I'm just staying confident and staying locked in."

Calipari said he has few concerns about Quickley because of a work ethic the coach compared to that of former Kentucky guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who improved his shot and film study in early-morning workouts four to five days a week and is now starting for the Los Angeles Clippers. Quickley's coach at John Carroll, John Zito, said his former charge is not the type to be content with his game.

"When I got there, literally on my first day on the job, I found him at the gym at 8 o'clock in the morning shooting," said Zito, a former UMBC assistant coach who guided the Patriots for Quickley's junior and senior years before becoming a real estate agent. "That was a testament to what was to come and who he is. He is a tireless worker, and if there is a small deficiency in his game, you can guarantee that he is going to work on that and turn his weakness into a strength."

Quickley has also had to adjust to Calipari's demanding coaching style. Calipari said he has stopped practice and tagged Quickley with a turnover even if he did not lose the ball simply because he did not run a drill or play according to its design.

"He's got to get more comfortable and more trusting of his work," Calipari said, pointing out that in an 80-72 win over then-No. 9 North Carolina on Dec. 22, Quickley got caught in a trap off a pick-and-roll, left his feet and threw the ball away. "And then you're not trying to do everything. I'm still learning about him, and he's still learning about what he's got to do. It's a process. His feel for what's happening is growing every game, and some of this stuff, the experience you need, you've got to get that from the games. So it takes time, and you've got to get in games."

Quickley said he welcomes Calipari's critiques.

"I think the more a coach expects from you, it can only push you past all the boundaries that you think you have," he said. "It helps you in the long run."

Quickley, who has been practicing at Kentucky since June, recently returned to Havre de Grace to spend Christmas with his family for a few days. But he said he was anxious to return to campus to continue improving his skills.

McDonald's All American Immanuel Quickley (John Carroll) to compete in 3-point shootout tonight

Quickley said he has not given much consideration to being in the spotlight in the Baltimore area because of his affiliation with the Wildcats.

"I don't really see it as pressure," he said. "Honestly, I don't even worry about what other people's expectations are. I just go out every day and try to play hard and give it my all every time I step out on the court."

Zito said Quickley, who is considering majoring in agriculture, has the mental and physical attributes to succeed in whatever field he chooses.

"I don't know if anybody can put a ceiling on this kid because he works so hard, and anytime somebody is willing to do whatever it takes to get where they want to go, I don't know that you can put a ceiling on that guy," he said. "I hope he gets everything he wants, and I'm sure that's to get to the NBA and have a great career in the NBA."

The loss to Alabama wasn't a bad one -- if Kentucky learns from it

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 5

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. -- OK, so Monday night out in sunny Santa Clara, Calif., the Alabama Crimson Tide will be playing in the College Football Playoff national championship against the Clemson Tigers.

But the Super Bowl, that was played Saturday afternoon back home in Tuscaloosa.

You know, the college basketball Super Bowl. SEC basketball's version of the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl that, according to John Calipari, always involves Kentucky and whomever happens to be playing Kentucky. ("We're everybody's Super Bowl Bowl.") Especially when the Cats come to town — even if that town is a bit distracted by about what is about to happen in another sport, and for good reason.

"I can't thank our fans enough," Alabama Coach Avery Johnson said afterward.

He also said this: "We needed to beat Kentucky."

And so the Crimson Tide did, for the first time in Johnson's four seasons as coach, hanging on for dear life and a breakthrough 77-75 victory over the 13th-ranked Wildcats that despite the football game and the students being gone from campus for holiday break, drew an announced crowd of 12,424 inside a loud Coleman Coliseum.

"Where did these people come from?" wondered Calipari.

With all that factored in, this was not a bad loss for Kentucky. Let's get that out of the way first. This was not just the Cats' first foray into conference play, but their first road game in conference play. Conference road games are different. They just are. Duke in Indianapolis, Seton Hall in New York, North Carolina in Chicago, even Louisville in Louisville, those games are not the same as Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

So for UK's younger players, Saturday was a lesson on the rules of the road. A field trip, if you will. One of Calipari's pet phrases — one day, there will be a book; a thick book — is "you win or you learn." This trip to Tuscaloosa, against a pretty good Alabama team, was a learning experience.

Lesson one: You must guard the three-point shot. After Seton Hall's slew of falling, off-balance, ridiculous threes in the Pirates' overtime win over UK at Madison Square Garden last month, the Cats had done a better job of defending the three-point arc. Saturday, they experienced a relapse named Tevin Mack.

The Texas transfer didn't just score 20 points in the first half, the Tide forward was a perfect six of six from three-point range. And at least a couple of those appeared to be launched from somewhere close to Birmingham. "He wakes up shooting and goes to bed shooting," said teammate Donta Hall.

Lesson two: The first few minutes of the second half matter. Despite Mack's 20 points, the Cats led 40-38 at halftime. Three minutes into the second period, the Tide had turned the tide and led 46-40. "I was really disappointed the way we started the second half," Calipari said.

Lesson three: You can't miss 14 of your first 19 second-half shots and win. Not on the road. By the time the Cats finally located the basket, they were down 61-53 with 7:55 left. And the Alabama crowd was enjoying the experience.

Give Kentucky credit for a no-quit comeback, though Alabama's shaky ball-handling surely had something to do with that. The Tide's 11-point lead with 3:12 remaining was a single point with five seconds left. Had Nick Saban been in attendance, headsets would have been smashed left and right.

"We didn't deserve to win that game," Calipari concluded.

No disagreement here. The story of the

glass told all. The Cats are among the best rebounding teams in the nation. ("Them guys bang in the post now," said Alabama's Hall.) In Saturday's second half, however, UK was outrebounded 24-15.

So lose and learn. That's the message the Cats should carry back for a pair of home games next week against Texas A&M and Vanderbilt. Then it's a return to the road — first Georgia; then Auburn — where that "everybody's Super Bowl" thing might just be trite enough to be true.

Wordplay: Calipari asks Cats to capture their goals for 2019 in one word

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 7

In an attempt to prevent what golfers call paralysis by analysis, John Calipari said he suggests books for his Kentucky players to read.

"You've got to stay away from it," he said of the attention the Big Blue Nation seemingly gives every dribble. "You can't listen to that. You stay in the moment. Try to get better every day. Do something away from the court."

The latest book recommended by Calipari is entitled "Life Word: Discover Your One Word to Leave a Legacy." He asked each UK player to pick a word that can serve as a label for 2019.

"A word that describes what you're trying to accomplish," he said told the players. "What your strengths are and something you need to work on."

These words, which Calipari said showed the players put thought into their selections, also gives the UK coach a tool. For instance, he can remind a player of the word chosen and ask him to try harder to live up to his word.

Immanuel Quickley said he chose the word "feel." Why? It came after talking with Calipari, he said.

"Just feel my way on the court, having an idea of where everybody is," Quickley said. "Really a point guard-type word."

Tyler Herro said he chose "win" as his word.

"Just attacking every single day," he said. "Getting the best of my abilities. Just continue to work hard and win at whatever I'm doing."

Yes, Calipari said, he also had picked a word.

"'Build,'" he said. Build on each player's skills and on the UK program. "Keep me focused on what I want to be."

'Just playing basketball' allows Baker to make a star turn for UK

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 8

Jemarl Baker's bountiful evening Tuesday included a career-high three assists, a timely three-pointer while being fouled, his first two-pointer for Kentucky and credit from John Calipari for being the game-changer in an 85-74 victory over Texas A&M.

Then came another debut: Baker settling into a chair as reporters crowded around him for postgame interviews.

"I like it," he said when asked what he thought of this scene. "I like it a lot."

Calipari said that Baker changed the game by doing less, or maybe more correctly trying to do less.

"Well, I thought Jemarl Baker went in and was just playing basketball," Calipari said. "Wasn't playing for himself. Wasn't trying to get his. If a guy was open, he threw it to him. And guess what? It changed the whole complexion of the game."

Baker downplayed the difference he made.

"I just go in and played my game," he said. "I don't like to force things. I'm not trying to be flashy or anything. I just go out there and play basketball."

Calipari acknowledged being surprised at how Baker, who came to UK labeled as a shooter, can contribute.

"I didn't know he could defend the way he defends," Calipari said. "He really plays hard. Really tries."

This is not something new, Baker said. "I take a lot of pride in defense," he said. "And I have been since I was really little. My dad taught me. My coaches when I was little taught me to defend and give it all you've got whether it's offense or defense. I just take pride in everything I do."

Because of injuries, Baker has been a model of perseverance. A knee injury sustained as a high school senior forced him to sit out his freshman season at UK. He made the Southeastern Conference' s Academic Honor roll.

His UK debut was further delayed by knee soreness, which sidelined him during the four August exhibition games in the Bahamas.

"It was really frustrating," he said. "But when I found out it was just little minor stuff, then I felt better after that."

Baker made his belated debut with a one-minute cameo against Seton Hall on Dec. 8. Then a week later, he scored his first points by making two three-pointers in the final two minutes against Utah.

Through it all, Baker made an impression.

"Jemarl brings a great attitude every day," Tyler Herro said. "He came in and really made a spark for us. ... Jemarl keeps making strides, and we're happy for him."

Baker's contributions against Texas A&M seemed like reaching a new plateau. But that's not what he said when asked about his best moment as a UK player.

"Just being on the court with the team," he said. "That's it. I'm just having fun playing here and just try to play for everybody on the team."

'Exhausted' Calipari micromanaging team part of normal evolution

By: Darrell Bird | The Cats' Pause | Jan. 9

John Calipari wasn't exaggerating Tuesday night when he said, "I'm exhausted."

Kentucky players may have scored the points in the 85-74 victory over Texas A&M, but nobody inside Rupp Arena exerted more energy than the 59-year-old coach with the artificial hip.

My vantage point taking photos at Rupp Arena, not 15 feet from the UK bench, affords a fascinating look at the interactions between coach and player. On Tuesday, few were spared the wrath of Cal.

Not game leading scorer Tyler Herro, who butchered a fast-break opportunity.

Not season leading scorer Keldon Johnson, who seemed to be unable to do anything right on this night.

Not even graduate student Reid Travis, who at least is mature enough to stare directly into Calipari's eyes as he gets lambasted.

"We had some guys that got outworked. Just got outworked and think it's OK. Like what's the big deal, you know who I am," Calipari said. The coach often speaks in the offseason of how his wife, Ellen, thinks he was too hard on certain players. Last year it was Nick Richards, another time Isaiah Briscoe. Her answer today might be, "All of the above."

"They are not empowered yet, let's just say that," Calipari said, a diplomatic

response after a long pause.

Translation. Players are often doing the exact opposite of what they are instructed to do, not in deliberate defiance but in mind-boggling ineptitude. In one timeout, Calipari drew the exact play Texas A&M would run, but one guy failed to do his job.

Calipari painted a picture where players emerge from the huddle and at the snap the quarterback goes one way and the other 10 players go another.

"We're breaking down execution right now and it's driving me crazy," Calipari said. "That's the kind of stuff that we've got to clean up and it's just not acceptable if we are going to be any good. You cannot play that way."

As overwhelming as it might be for players, as frustrating as it might be for the coaching staff, and as terrifying as it might be for an anxiety-riddled fan base with dreams of a Final Four berth, this actually is part of the normal evolution for a Kentucky team.

-- Jan. 24, 2018: "There's still not a lot of trust within and even trust in what we're trying to get them to do," Calipari said. "When you've got five guys trying to figure out who they are as a player, doesn't it look like they are a little confused offensively? It does. When you've got everybody that's comfortable in their own skin, and who they are as a player, and what they are being asked to do, it starts rolling. We're just not there yet."

-- Jan. 17, 2017: "We're still leaving timeouts and guys are doing exactly the opposite of what we say," Calipari said of the Monk-Fox-Adebayo Elite Eight team. "That's who we are right now. I thought we were a month away, we may be two months away."

-- Feb. 15, 2014: "Would I have wanted them to be farther ahead? Yeah, I'd like them to be the finished product right now. They're not," Calipari said one month before Kentucky's miracle run to the 2014 NCAA championship game. "You'll see warts, you're going to see them do stupid things. That's the part of teaching and coaching young players."

-- Jan. 7, 2012. "If we can be playing at our best as a team and individual players, it's scary. We're just not there yet," Calipari said of the eventual national champions. "This team has about 40 percent that they can grow and I'm not going to back off them."

A unique challenge for the 2019 team is the false start. Unlike most years, UK was afforded a head start to the season with an August trip to the Bahamas and the team played brilliantly. But then came the Nov. 6 beat down by Duke followed by the strong uptick in wins over North Carolina and Louisville only to lose the SEC opener at Alabama.

Calipari accurately described it as the team coming together out of fear of losing, then relaxing and reverting once they mistakenly believed they had it all figured out.

"That's kind of where we are, and I told them, I'm not going to stop coaching them. I'm not. I'm going to tell you when you're doing right. I'm going to tell you when you're doing wrong. We've got to get this thing right."

Currently, Calipari is micromanaging his basketball team. He isn't just calling out the offensive set each trip down the floor, he's directing individual players to certain spots on the floor and then barking when it's time for them to move to a different spot. Puppets on a string.

The coach's goal is to sever those ties.

"If this team is going to be what I believe they can be, they have to be empowered," Calipari said. "That means that I shouldn't even talk about effort and intensity and fight. Shouldn't even come out of my mouth, not once.

"If they have to have it all for me, I don't want to do it. I don't have fun doing that. I have fun cheering," he said. "But the other side of it is, we've got to win, which means I'm going to do whatever I need to do to get these guys over the finish line. Today, I was like dragging, literally, dragging."

The team and the coach.

Boos and baskets mark Ashton Hagans' incredible return to Georgia

By: Gentry Estes | Courier Journal | Jan. 15

ATHENS, Ga. – Afterward, Kentucky freshman Ashton Hagans sat in front of a backdrop of University of Georgia logos and told reporters he felt more comfortable because he was at home.

"I played good in front of the home crowd," Hagans said.

"Even though I was getting booed."

And in reality, this felt like the farthest thing from a "home crowd" that Hagans could have experienced. It was a hostile one, targeting him specifically for torment.

While growing up attending games at Stegeman Coliseum, Hagans probably couldn't have foreseen that twist. But he also couldn't have envisioned a much more successful debut there than this one.

Hagans responded to the attention with his best game yet for Kentucky. Boos and all, he scored a career-best, game-high 23 points Tuesday night to lead the Wildcats to a 69-49 victory over the Bulldogs.

"We all laughed about it at halftime and after the game," UK's Nick Richards said of the crowd's reaction to Hagans. "We were really happy for him."

The entire crowd wasn't hostile to Hagans, a Georgia native who went to high school about an hour from UGA. He estimated he had at least 15 family and friends in attendance, and there was a large assortment of Kentucky fans on the road, as usual.

But Hagans was clearly a marked man Tuesday night for Georgia's student section. It wasn't his ties to the state. It was because Hagans had once committed to Georgia, later opting out in the weeks before the Bulldogs fired former coach Mark Fox after last season.

"If Coach Fox would have stayed, I would have been here," Hagans said Tuesday night.

Therefore, UGA's students chanted "traitor" at Hagans before and during the game. They heartily booed him each time he touched the basketball.

And they fired him up just "a little bit," said Hagans. "I wasn't a traitor," he said.

Fox was ultimately replaced at Georgia by ex-Indiana coach Tom Crean, who did attempt unsuccessfully to sway Hagans, who said "it was loyalty over anything, and once (Fox) left, I left too."

Hagans, of course, ultimately opted to attend Kentucky.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs are now 9-7 during Crean's first season. Asked Tuesday night about Hagans being close to attending UGA, Crean replied, "Wasn't close to me."

"It would have been different if I felt like that because we'd recruited him for years," Crean said. "He's a really good player in a league full of good players. He's an outstanding freshman. But we'll get our breakthrough. We'll find our breakthrough Georgia guy."

Collectively for Kentucky, Tuesday was

the kind of impressive and timely performance that could turn what has been a mild slump for the Wildcats just before the SEC schedule gets more rugged.

And Hagans, even more Tuesday than in other games of late, played a leading role, taking over when the Wildcats needed it the most.

During a 15-2 run that stretched from the end of the first half through the beginning of the second half, Hagans scored 11 of Kentucky's 15 points. He had seven in a row after intermission, including only his second 3-pointer of the season.

Hagans said UK coach John Calipari had warned him about what to expect in Athens.

After missing six of his first seven attempts, Hagans was 8-of-11 from that point.

"It rattled him early. It inspired him later," Calipari said. "Early on, I had to get him (out). He missed a couple of layups, was rushing a little bit, and then he settled in and played the way he needs to play for him and us."

Win at Auburn proves Kentucky is coming of age right on schedule

By: Darrell Bird | The Cats' Pause | Jan. 20

AUBURN, Ala. – Now 10 years deep into this John Calipari era at Kentucky you would think we would be used to it by now. But no, the process is the same for the Big Blue Nation fan base, as certain as a sunrise and sunset.

Preseason season enthusiasm, amped up exponentially this year by a Bahamas trip so successful many were hanging a ninth banner at Rupp Arena.

Early season struggles that send the fan base into a panic.

Midseason course correction as the young team begins to come of age.

We were all witness to that rite of passage Saturday afternoon in Auburn, Alabama.

Confronted by the most raucous student section and hostile arena it has faced this season and matched with an electrifying and talented Auburn team ranked No 14, it would have been understandable for Kentucky to exit the Plains with a loss. Perhaps a butt-whoopin'.

Instead, Kentucky not only won the game 82-80, but held off a furious Auburn rally in the closing minutes to secure an impressive win that will do wonders for NCAA seeding come March.

"They were down by 17 and they never stopped," Kentucky coach John Calipari said of Auburn. "Guess what? Neither did we."

That one word is most important going forward. We.

It wasn't one player who carried Kentucky to victory. It was everyone.

It was Reid Travis, who got UK off to a fast start with seven points and six rebounds in the first half.

It was Keldon Johnson, who awoke from his slumber, to score 11 of 20 in the first half to push Kentucky on top 35-27.

It was PJ Washington, who had 13 points and seven rebounds, but more importantly led the fight UK had to have in a game that was chippy throughout.

It was Tyler Herro, who not only scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half but answered every Auburn 3-point basket that nearly blew the roof off the arena with his own score to keep the wolves at bay.

It was Ashton Hagans with six points, three steals and seven rebounds, from a point guard.

"What I'm proud of, we're playing a veteran team that's been through wars and have been through games like this, that made shots. And then Keldon makes a play, Tyler makes a couple of plays. We made free throws," Calipari said. "In a game like this it's fight. If you couldn't fight you couldn't be in there because the game is physical, a lot of hand-to-hand combat. It's how the game is played here. You've gotta play. Proud of them."

For 10 seasons, Calipari has preached empowerment, saying none of his teams will ever reach their potential unless it becomes a player-driven team. We saw flower begin to bloom on Saturday.

"Tyler wanted the ball," Calipari said. "He was telling me, 'Come back to me. Let me do this.' I like the fact Keldon was telling me, 'Come to me.'"

We saw it, too, in players holding one another accountable. Hagans approached Johnson, who had been slumping miserably, and ordered him to wake up. "He just told me, 'It's not acceptable. If we want to be the team we want to be, you've got to wake up.'"

Another time Washington entered a timeout huddle blasting Hagans for not passing the ball inside as Auburn's furious rally was chipping the lead away. Simply put, every time players exited a huddle with their coach, they conducted one-on-one sessions with teammates before play resumed.

Ownership is shifting.

"Really all the way from the beginning of the game to the end," Herro said. "When Ashton said that to Keldon, I was saying it to PJ, just everybody sticking together. When guys are taking it the right way, the sky is the limit because we all have each other's back. As long as we're all holding each other accountable, we'll be fine."

This is the sound of progress for Kentucky

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Jan. 20

AUBURN, Ala. – What does it sound like when a talented team's pieces finally start clicking into place? Probably not the noise you're thinking, at least not on this day and with this Kentucky team.

A forceful demand laced with an expletive is what it sounded like on Saturday afternoon inside Auburn Arena, as freshman point guard Ashton Hagans offered a jarring alarm clock for freshman wing Keldon Johnson, the Wildcats' leading scorer, who'd gone scoreless the game before and was off to an awful start against the 14th-ranked Tigers.

"Wake the f--- up!" Hagans screamed after sailing a pass out of bounds that was intended for Johnson, who appeared to be daydreaming on the play. "That's on you!"

And how is that the sound of progress? Well, because Hagans, the sudden star of this team, felt empowered enough to scream it – and more important, because Johnson was mature enough to hear it in the spirit it was intended. Then Johnson went wild, scoring 17 of his 20 points over the next 20 minutes as 12th-ranked Kentucky blitzed Auburn and quieted (temporarily) what at times was the loudest, most hostile crowd these Cats have faced all season.

"He just told me, 'You've got to wake up, man. It's not acceptable. If we want to be the team we want to be, you've got to wake up. We need you to play.' I did for teammates," Johnson said after unleashing a distinctly woke flurry of driving dunks and layups, 3-pointers and three-point plays. He received the tough love from Hagans "definitely in a positive way. I know he always

wants what's best for me. We might have argued sometimes on the court, but I know that my teammates always want what's best for me. We all know we have each other's backs (and) if they're telling you something, they're not going to do it just because. They're doing it because they want what's best for you and what's best for the team."

John Calipari keeps saying how important it is for this to become a player-led, not coach-driven team, and to that end, the sound of one critical piece clicking into place for Kentucky on Saturday was the roar of teammates screaming in each other's faces. Freshman guard Tyler Herro howled at PJ Washington, who hollered at fellow sophomore Nick Richards, who at one point looked as if he might throttle Washington.

That could be viewed as discord, but Herro said it was simply a band of brothers challenging one other to be better "really all the way from the beginning of the game to the end," which is how the Wildcats built a 17-point lead and fended off a furious comeback to win, 82-80, in the closing seconds. "When guys are taking it the right way, the sky is the limit, because we all have each other's back. As long as we're all holding each other accountable, we'll be fine."

What does it look like when pieces of a puzzle start snapping into their designated spots? Well, probably exactly what you might imagine, in Kentucky's case.

It looks like Herro – whose high school nickname, Boy Wonder, hasn't quite caught on yet – smiling as he stands at the free-throw line, down by one with 24.1 seconds left and a chance to give the Wildcats back the lead. Swish. Swish.

It looks like Herro scoring 10 of his 20 points in the final six minutes, answering Auburn's barrage of 3-pointers with calm, clutch plays of his own: an and-one after the Tigers cut the deficit to five with 5:23 to go, a pull-up jumper after they got it to six with 4:54 remaining, a 3-pointer after the lead had been sliced to three with 3:47 left and those two ice-cold free throws after Jared Harper buried a trey to give Auburn its only lead of the second half.

"And he wanted the ball," Calipari said. "He was telling me, 'Come back to me. Let me do this.' "

Afterward, Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said the 6-foot-5 Herro and the 6-6 Johnson simply looked right over the top of his guards (the 5-11 Harper and the 6-3 Brown) and used the dramatic size advantage to light them up. Kentucky needed all 40 points the pair produced, too, because Harper and Brown combined for 45. Brown scored 25 of his 28 points in the second half and swished all five 3-pointers he attempted after intermission, almost singlehandedly erasing a 15-point deficit over the final nine minutes.

But the Boy Wonder would not let the Wildcats lose. Herro has a knack for theatrics on the road, if you recall his career-high 24 points in a win at Louisville. His near-miss on a game-winning attempt at Alabama on Jan. 5 is all that stands between Kentucky and eight consecutive victories.

"I just like hitting big shots against people who don't like us, I guess," Herro said, grinning. "They don't like us, we don't like them. It was just a bigger game (than any so far this season), I feel like, because Auburn is a great team, we're a great team. So I feel like tonight was a bigger stage."

That these Cats (14-3, 4-1 in the SEC) were up to the moment again – adding to the neutral-site win against North Carolina and the victory at Louisville, and including the fast start to the SEC schedule – suggests that one by one, those pieces keep falling into place.

In addition to his profane display of leadership, Hagans again did a little bit of everything: six points, seven rebounds, six assists and three steals, adding to his school-record streak of seven consecutive games with at least three thefts. Pearl called him a "terrific point guard," one he recruited. "He's doing what he does for teams: He runs teams." Grad transfer Reid Travis was back to being a force of nature inside, feasting on the absence of injured Auburn anchor Austin Wiley to the tune of 17 points (on seven shots) and seven boards.

"Kentucky is bigger at every position, they're more physical at every position and the way that they could beat us is the way they beat us," Pearl said. "They're better than last year's team, and I think they're going to have a really good year. I think they're playing with more of a purpose. They value possessions more. They get good looks every time down. They've got a good inside-out game. I know Ashton Hagans. I know Keldon Johnson. I know those two kids pretty well. I know EJ Montgomery (a former Tigers commit). They've got real character. There's a real will to win there. They would rather win and score less than maybe put up their numbers. Those kids are built really like champions."

To have an opposing coach – who is no fan of Calipari, mind you – say such things after taking an L at home, wasting what will be his wildest crowd of the season, a crazed chorus that tried to push Auburn across the finish line by the sheer volume of its desperate noise in those closing moments? That's what it sounds like when the pieces begin to click.

UK basketball's 'ahead of schedule,' showing championship traits

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 21

The circumstances at Auburn on Saturday could hardly have been more challenging for Kentucky. This season's collection of Kiddie Cats faced:

A ranked opponent.

An enthused crowd filling Auburn Arena and thirsting for a victory.

A second-half rally filled with the psychological blow that comes with a three-point basket. Then another. Then another.

Assistant coach Tony Barbee, who substituted for John Calipari at Monday's media availability, saw long-term significance in Kentucky's 82-80 victory.

"I think we showed our resolve and our toughness," he said. "That's a trait of a championship team when you can do that."

Of course, championships are how Kentucky teams are measured. That hasn't changed even if the method to get there has. Dependence on one-and-done freshmen is the foundation of UK's teams in the Calipari era. The process of transforming a collection of players into an effective unit must be done in the equivalent of hyper speed.

Barbee likened Kentucky's annual now-or-never set up to a roller coaster.

"They're typical freshmen until late January or early (to) mid-February," he said.

By that standard, Kentucky is all but humming into Tuesday night's game against Mississippi State.

"I think we're ahead of schedule," PJ Washington said. "Last year, we didn't really figure it out until late February. But now we're in January figuring it out. We've just got to keep on this path."

When asked why he thought Kentucky was ahead of schedule, Washington said, "I

feel like we want it more. Everybody's still in the gym working. Everybody's locked in and focused on what the team needs."

On offense, freshmen like Keldon Johnson and Tyler Herro are becoming more proficient at using screens, Barbee said. Yes, he added, it helps having someone like graduate transfer Reid Travis setting the screens. "You don't want to run into Reid," Barbee said, "because you're going to stop in your tracks."

Herro, in particular, brings a level of confidence unusual for a freshman. Maybe unusual even by Kentucky's standard.

"He had it from day one," said Barbee, who called Herro the "ultimate confidence guy.

"Never rattled. Never flustered. It doesn't matter the time, score, situation, level of the game, opponent. It doesn't matter. … He's just out there having fun, playing the game of basketball. That's why he doesn't get rattled."

The roller-coaster analogy applies to defense, too. Barbee saw UK farther up the hill than in previous seasons.

Typically, the players' heads are still spinning as they try to absorb a variety of offenses at this juncture of the season. Not this time around.

"They're getting settled into a rhythm …," Barbee said. "They're getting more and more comfortable on the defensive end of the floor."

Washington echoed the sentiment. "Everybody's buying into the system," he said. "That's beautiful for us right now."

As the Wildcats raise their voice, Kentucky has raised its game

By: Tim Sullivan | Courier Journal | Jan. 22

Talk may be cheap. Silence, however, can be costly.

To hear the Kentucky Wildcats tell it, the defensive woes made manifest while Duke was scoring 118 points in the season opener were largely attributable to a verbal vacuum. As Strother Martin told Paul Newman in "Cool Hand Luke," what we had here was a failure to communicate.

"Early in the season we weren't talking at all," P.J. Washington said Tuesday night, "and our defense showed it."

That was then. This is wow.

Tuesday's 76-55 victory over No. 22 Mississippi State was Kentucky's fifth straight Southeastern Conference victory and marked the third time in 11 days that an opponent of the Wildcats had set or equaled its season-low point total.

MSU coach Ben Howland's assessment was that his team had been rushed into 15 turnovers and an abundance of bad shots by a UK team that appears to have hit its normal spring stride slightly ahead of schedule.

"They got us playing faaaast," Howland said, elongating the word for extra emphasis. "They got us playing where we were in a hurry rather than under control offensively in the first half. … I thought they really pressured us."

Like most of John Calipari's UK teams, this one's midseason form looks more like a work in progress than a finished product. Prior to Tuesday's game, the Cats were yielding 8.4 3-point baskets per game, and an unsightly .369 shooting percentage from behind the arc. Yet as their communication skills have improved, so has the speed of their rotations and their trust in each other.

"I feel like we're coming together on defense and we're playing a lot better," said freshman point guard Ashton Hagans. "We're talking more on the defensive end."

As a result, opponents' open shots don't remain open quite as long. And haste, in this context, makes for bricked jumpers. The visiting Bulldogs, who hit a program-record 19 3-pointers last month against Clemson, went 3-for-20 from long range on this night at Rupp Arena.

"Let me say this," Calipari cautioned. "This is a top-20 team that did not shoot the ball well today. … They make their normal – say they make seven, this is a 5-6 point game. And some of them were wide open."

Mathematically, at least, that makes some sense. As a practical matter, though, creating space grows more difficult as Kentucky's defense grows more seamless. Hagans' tenacious on-ball defense can turn poise into panic, particularly when his teammates know their places and heed their verbal cues.

"Everybody getting quicker to the spot," Hagans said. "When we switch on the ball screen, you see our bigs can guard the (guards). It's just something they're good at doing. That helps us, knowing our bigs can guard on the outside."

"I feel like we're coming together on defense and we're playing a lot better. We're talking more on the defensive end."

Tuesday's game marked the end of Hagans' streak of at least three steals in seven straight games, but his impact could also be seen in Mississippi State's meager five assists on 19 made baskets.

"When you're on the ball playing like he plays, it bleeds into everybody else," Calipari said. "If your guy at the point is getting beat on a dribble and can't control the guy a little bit, you're in jeopardy.

"That's why when we recruit point guards, if we have a guy, I tell them: 'How are we going to start our defense if he can't stay in front of the ball?' The stats don't matter to me; can he do it? Last year, we had Shai (Gilgeous-Alexander) did it, and now Ashton does it."

This helps explain how Hagans can be averaging just 7.3 points per game but projects as a first-round NBA Draft choice (currently projected to go No. 25 overall by NBADraft.net). It also helps explain how Kentucky has recovered from the Duke debacle to win 15 of its 18 games, to rise in the national rankings (No. 8 by the Associated Press; No. 9 in the USA TODAY Coaches poll) and to aspire again to a meaningful March.

"Think about where they are from the first game of the year against Duke to where they are now," Howland said.

It speaks for itself, and loudly.

How a volleyball player might be Kentucky basketball's secret weapon

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Jan. 25

If 7-foot center Nick Richards is the missing piece for surging Kentucky, which John Calipari, Jay Bilas and many others now seem to believe, and if confidence is the key to unlocking the potential of the former McDonald's All-American, then you might call Leah Edmond, arguably the greatest volleyball player in school history, the basketball team's secret weapon.

"Let's go for a drive," she sometimes tells Richards, her boyfriend of about 18 months, and off they go down Versailles Road, out beyond the famous castle and Keeneland Racecourse, hanging a left onto a scenic highway that carries him a world away from the stress of trying to be that X-factor in a storied program's pursuit of its ninth national championship. "If it's a bad day, I just say, 'Let's go on a drive,' " Edmond says. "It's clear out there, pretty,

just all grass and trees and farms and horses. Coming from New York (and Jamaica before that), he'd never seen a horse before. He loves seeing the horses. I think sometimes he is so concerned with basketball that he, not freaks himself out, but it gets to his head. He's always thinking and talking about it so much that sometimes he needs a break.

"I'm the one who says, 'Hey, it's OK not to be OK.' Keeping his mind clear – and sometimes that means taking him away from basketball – I think helps him."

Edmond appears to be doing what not even acclaimed sports psychologist Bob Rotella could do. Calipari set up a phone call between Rotella and Richards last season, as part of a months-long mission to help Richards, now a sophomore, crack the code on his confidence problem. He started the big man in every game, even when he was plainly not one of Kentucky's five best players and usually only lasted a handful of minutes before shuffling to the bench for the remainder of the game. The idea was that maybe if he did something good right out of the gate, he'd ride that wave and have a breakthrough. It never happened.

"There's something that's holding him back," assistant coach Kenny Payne said during Richards' freshman season. Payne specializes in turning towering teenagers into NBA lottery picks, but Richards is the rare giant who stumped Payne. "The last piece is there's a nervousness that he has, an anxiousness: I'm playing not to make a mistake. When you play not to make a mistake, you're making a mistake. There's been so many guys who came through here and struggled initially but eventually figured it out. I don't know if they had the low point that he has. He's been really, really low. And he's second-guessing himself. He's wondering, 'Am I good enough?' "

That's where Edmond comes in. Hell yes, you're good enough, she tells him. And Richards believes her because she knows what a high-level athlete looks like. She is a three-time All-American, owns the volleyball program's single-season and career records for kills in the rally-scoring era and is the reigning SEC player of the year. Oh, and her father, Corey, is the director of performance for Kentucky's football team, a man who has helped build the bodies of more than 30 NFL players in a career working under Mark, Mike and Bob Stoops at UK, Arizona and Oklahoma.

"I know what you can do," Leah tells Richards. "And I don't let him give me excuses. 'Well, this guy was trying to foul me.' Uh, OK, what? You're a 7-foot, 250-pound dude, and you're letting some guy that's my size push you around in the paint? No, I'm not going to let you have that excuse."

But what about playing time? Richards' minutes are down this season, from 14.7 per game last year to 11.4. Maybe if he got more opportunities …

"Nope," Edmond says. "I tell him every game: No matter how much playing time you get, make a difference. If you're on the court for one minute, there's something you can do for your team in that one minute. Make use of it, because that might be the only minute you get, but I want you to walk off the court every single time knowing that you gave your absolute all and can feel proud of what you did for your team."

That message, in particular, seems to be resonating. In the last eight games, Richards has played just 87 minutes but produced 23 points, 28 rebounds and 10 blocks. That works out to 10.6 points, 12.9 rebounds and 4.6 blocks per 40 minutes, a game-changing contribution from the bench. "Yes!" Edmond says. "This is what we've been waiting on." Despite playing the eighth-most minutes on the team this season, he leads Kentucky in blocked shots.

"Coach is basically emphasizing that if I'm a rim protector, we're probably going to win a national championship," Richards says. "That's one of the key things that we need." Bilas, the face of ESPN's college basketball coverage, recently agreed. Richards could be especially valuable on Saturday when the Wildcats host ninth-ranked Kansas, which is short on big men with 6-9 Silvio De Sousa still sidelined by the NCAA and 7-footer Udoka Azubuike shut down due to injury.

Behind-the-scenes videos from post-game locker room celebrations lately – and there have been plenty, as the eighth-ranked Wildcats have reeled off four wins over currently ranked teams in the last month – often catch Calipari and teammates going out of their way to praise Richards for his impact.

"It's nice to see that everybody still has faith in him," Edmond says. "I just get so excited, because I'm like, 'He needed that.' He needed someone to tell him, 'You know what? You're doing really well.' And every time I see him smile on the court, I get so excited, because I didn't see him smile for a while. That just gives me a good feeling, because if he's smiling I know he's not thinking too much."

Edmond has been making Richards smile since they met at a back-to-school house party for athletes from several sports at Kentucky in the summer of 2017. He was intrigued by Edmond, who at 6-foot-2 is surely one of the few women on campus not completely dwarfed by him, and asked a friend to send her over for an introduction. He is sometimes painfully shy and she is … not.

"I didn't pay him, like, any mind. I knew who he was, because I follow basketball, but I wasn't fazed by him," Edmond recalls, laughing at her own hard-to-get approach. "The first encounter, he did not like me. Because I came up to him like, 'Who are you and why are you taking me away from my friends? What's your deal? Why are you so quiet? I don't like quiet people.' I don't think he expected me to be so in-your-face, and he was like, 'You're annoying. I don't like you.' "

Naturally, they kept hanging out. A few weeks into the game of who could pretend to be less interested, Richards asked Edmond to bring him some food. "I'm not your girlfriend," she snapped. "Yeah, you are," he answered. "Oh," she said, "OK! What do you want to eat?" They've been inseparable ever since. "That is how we started dating. The strangest thing. On a random Tuesday."

He learned that move, to be so bold, to ask for what you want, to maybe even fake it until you make it, from her.

"I watch her play volleyball all the time, and she just seems so relaxed, so confident in herself," Richards says. "I'll ask her what she thinks about when she's playing. She says she has the mentality that no one is better than her. I've just got to adopt that mentality: No one is better than me. That's what helped her become the player that she is right now, and it's definitely helped me become a better, more confident player."

Edmond, the volleyball star, and Richards, the basketball player, have taught each other some things during their relationship. (Courtesy of Edmond and Richards)

Edmond has taught Richards to do breathing exercises to calm himself and empty his mind in the locker room before games. In

turn, he has taught her a few things too. Because there is a lot about Richards that fans don't see.

"Sometimes I think I'm working hard and then I see him in the gym at midnight or just doing random things every day to make himself better and I'm like, 'I don't do that.' It makes me kind of upset, realizing I don't do some of the extra things that he does and yet I've had the success that I do," Edmond says. "He's working so hard and still not getting where he wants to be, and it's kind of frustrating for me. One time over the summer, I was at an open gym and I was just kind of like, 'I'm done.' He saw me and said, 'Why are your teammates still out there and you aren't?' I told him, 'Because I'm done, I did everything I needed to.' He wasn't having it. 'But your teammates are still out there.' We got in a huge argument about it, but it has become kind of an accountability thing. He always says, 'You can work harder.' "

She finds Richards on his iPad at all hours, watching film of an upcoming opponent, of himself, of big men he wants to emulate.

"He wants this so much," Edmond says, "that I know he will get there. We don't talk about stats too much, because sometimes stats can overwhelm you. It's something I struggled with this year – 'I'm not putting up the stats I'm used to' – but he was just like, 'But you played well. But your team won.' That's something I don't think anybody realizes about Nick. He doesn't care how he plays if the team wins, because he knows it's not about him. If the team succeeds, he'll succeed. Still, I'm waiting for that bigger stat line, putting up those consistent numbers, because I know he can."

Calipari keeps talking publicly about how much Richards impacts the game in his limited minutes and how much Kentucky needs him to play more to raise the ceiling on its postseason potential. It feels as if a bigger role is coming, but that would require stealing time from Stanford graduate transfer Reid Travis, the team's most consistent rebounder and post scorer. Calipari asked players to pick a word to define who they wanted to be in 2019; confidence would be the best one for Richards, but patience is a close second.

"If Nick was smart, Nick would be a three- or four-year guy and then play in the (NBA) for 10 years," ESPN analyst Seth Greenberg says. "Now, the perception would be, 'Oh, my God, he's a four-year guy!' like it's a bad thing. But Nick is getting better, and if he could stay the course and have the maturity to be a three- or four-year guy, he might end up being a pro for a long time. He came in so raw, but he's learning how to play harder, to finish a little quicker. He's learning. The stigma for guys who don't get it completely after just one or two years is so wrong. The goal shouldn't be to get out (of school) but to stay in (the NBA). And Nick can do that if he's patient."

To that end, Edmond might be Kentucky's secret weapon on this too. She still has a year of school left, and if Richards transferred or declared for the draft after this season – meaning a year of sitting out at a new school or months of toiling in the G League – who would be there on the bad days to say, "Let's take a drive"?

In light of its convincing win over Kansas, Kentucky has clearly gotten back to Final Four-caliber form

By: Matt Norlander | CBS Sports | Jan. 26

After Saturday's 71-63 victory vs. Kansas, Nov. 6 must feel like a different season, a different team, a different universe to Kentucky.

You remember then? It was college basketball's opening night and Wildcats coach John Calipari took the worst statistical loss of his career when Duke demolished his higher-ranked Wildcats to the blaring tune of 118-84. That outcome was stunning, and while the parade of Blue Devils publicity has endlessly spooled out from that night, it's worth noting that Kentucky's loss was as surprising a defeat, circumstances considered, as Calipari's ever had.

That loss is proving to be aberrational, though. That kind of embarrassment could have swerved Kentucky's season in the long run, but we now know it hasn't. This team isn't letting that game or its early season bumps have carryover into the second half of the schedule.

"I'd rather learn from a close win than an absolute shellacking that we took," Calipari told reporters after beating the Jayhawks. "But if it does help us, that's great, but I don't -- there's no solace in what happened up there. We got absolutely clubbed by a very good team."

Since the Duke debacle Kentucky's gone 16-2, its only bad endings coming in overtime on a neutral court against Seton Hall and on the road against Alabama by just two.

The game we'd been waiting for to judge Kentucky most acutely came Saturday night, though. Top-10 KU vs. top-10 UK. These teams have played some great ones in recent seasons, the last three games decided by six points fewer. Rupp Arena was the stage for the biggest game of the day in college basketball.

No. 8 Kentucky's victory vs. No. 9 Kansas definitively recalibrated expectations -- setting them back to where they were the minute before the Duke game tipped back in the fall. Kentucky's takedown of Kansas marks its ninth win in 10 games, its third straight against an AP Top 25 team and its fifth in a 10-game stretch against five surefire or potential NCAA Tournament teams: North Carolina, Louisville, Auburn, Mississippi State, Kansas.

The outcome also ended a most ridiculous streak: until Saturday, Kansas had defeated AP top-10 teams 13 consecutive times in the regular season. It was the longest such streak in college basketball in 22 seasons. Its most recent loss? To Kentucky in November 2014.

That streak is over -- frankly, Kansas was due; beating top-10 teams 13 times in a row is an absurd run -- and Kentucky is back to where most expected it would be. If UK's road win at Auburn on Jan. 19 was the team's most complete performance of the season, then Saturday's Kansas conquest represents the moment in which this season changes to Kentucky: back in the national title conversation.

Put the Wildcats at the same table as Virginia, Tennessee, Duke, Michigan State, Michigan and whatever other teams you think are worthy. (Kansas? Well, maybe not. Not right now, anyway.)

While the Cats are far from perfect, there are no qualifiers or excuses or asides we should be including when discussing Kentucky at this point. It's going to lose a few more games, but whatever: this team is cresting toward being one of the five most dangerous in college basketball. Saturday night proved it. Kansas doesn't need to be vintage in order for UK to acquire more style points or credibility. That's a Quadrant 1 win and could ultimately help Kentucky secure a No. 1 or No. 2 seed.

The rewarding thing with this team is how ahead of schedule it seems to be.

There have been some teams over the past six seasons where UK's youth has needed time into February, or even March, to find its groove. I see nothing of that sort here. Almost every game Kentucky's played over the past month has given us tangible reasons to believe the ceiling is getting raised for this team ever higher by the week.

"When you have defensive confidence, that bleeds into your offense," Calipari said. "Now all of a sudden you're looking at a team that, you know, 11 turnovers, 12 turnovers, ten turnovers, that plays confident at times."

Against Kansas, yet again, Kentucky got a tremendous showing from PJ Washington and Reid Travis, doing so against Kansas' All-American candidate, Dedric Lawson. Washington and Travis combined for 38 points, 25 rebounds and shot 50 percent. UK owned the paint. Defensively, it was one of the team's best performances of the season. I'm not sure if this is impressive or worrisome, but all of Kentucky's points came from its starters.

Despite Travis, Washington, Keldon Johnson, Ashton Hagans and Tyler Herro logging the majority of the team's minutes, that five still kept Kansas in fits. The Jayhawks found themselves relying on Lawson way too much.

KU had only four assists with 7:30 remaining. Lagerald Vick, who needs to be a 15-points-per-game guy, minimum, to keep Kansas elite, was a non-factor in the second half. That's as much on Kansas as it is a credit to Kentucky's defense. This team is not only good, it's becoming fun to watch. There is a grind-and-release aesthetic with UK that empowers its offense.

"We are making -- we are taking that gradual climb, and I know -- I don't know if it's a people's opinion of what we were or their hope of what we were," Calipari said. "Like some people have a hope and it's not an opinion, it's their hope we stink, and that I think played into it early, but how many years have I been here? This is 10. It feels like 22, it's only 10?"

Kentucky's getting great in all the areas it needs to be. It's knocking on the door of top-10 defensive efficiency at KenPom. On the offensive boards, Kentucky ranks No. 6 in the sport. It's blocking 15 percent of opponents' shots. It's a two-way team. And when you watch, you still see how good Hagans, Herro, Johnson and EJ Montgomery can become.

It's a good thing for UK that it's proving to be this good with a lot of room left for growth. It's not on No. 1 Tennessee's level yet, so that's the next step. Go get those Vols. The teams still won't meet for the first time for three weeks, so in the meantime, we wait to see what the Wildcats do to evolve.

It's finally feeling like this could be another one of those special seasons for Calipari and his most interesting roster since the 2014-15 team that went 38-1.

John Calipari insists: Kentucky is a good 3-point shooting team

By: Gentry Estes | Courier Journal | Jan. 26

Coach John Calipari calls this Kentucky team "one of the best I've had here" when it comes to shooting from 3-point range.

He'd just like for everyone else to get to see why he thinks that.

"That's why I kind of get bothered at times," Calipari said. "We're a good post-up team. We're a good driving team. You don't need to rely on just jacking 3s. But if you leave us alone … if you collapse your defense, we're good enough to make those shots."

Entering this weekend's games, Kentucky was at the bottom of the Southeastern Conference in 3-point field goals, averaging 6.1 per game. During Saturday night's 71-63 victory over Kansas, the Wildcats made only four.

They were 0-for-8 from 3-point range in the first half before a 4-for-10 finish in the second half, including a trio of timely long-range shots from Keldon Johnson.

"That was the difference in the game," Calipari said. "If we go 0-for-10 in the second half, we lose the game."

Kansas finished 9-of-23 from 3-point range, including a 6-for-13 clip in the second half that helped keep the Jayhawks in a game in which they were outrebounded 49-36 and didn't shoot better than 37 percent from the field in either half.

Despite so many encouraging signs in other areas, Calipari harped on the shooting to his team Saturday. Specially, he didn't think his players were shooting enough, and he basically scolded some of them for turning down open perimeter shots.

"I don't like when guys pass up shots, they ball-fake when they're wide open," Calipari said. "The reason they do it is they don't want to take that shot. … Shoot the ball. 'You don't do shoot that and you ball-fake and you drive in and try to do it, I'm taking you out. You were open, why didn't you shoot?'"

"He definitely tells us if we're open, shoot the ball," Johnson said. "He said we put in too many hours in the gym for us to catch it on the wing and pump-fake and not shoot the ball. … We're getting better, though. You guys will eventually see it. We're putting in a lot of work, a lot of hours in the gym. I think it will eventually pay off."

While SEC leader Auburn came into Saturday averaging nearly 11 made shots per game from 3-point range, Kentucky has only made as many as eight 3-pointers in a game four times this season.

The best 3-point shooter statistically on Kentucky's team is someone no longer on Kentucky's team. Quade Green made 42.3 percent of his 3-pointers before transferring after nine games.

Johnson' 3-for-4 Saturday would put him at 40.6 percent now, moving him ahead of forward PJ Washington, who missed four 3-point attempts to drop to 36.8 percent. Outside of Johnson, the rest of the Wildcats were 1-of-14 from 3-point range against Kansas, with Washington, Tyler Herro and Immanuel Quickley combining to go 0-for-10.

"In the first half, we couldn't make anything — 3s, layups, midrange, anything," Washington said. "We knew we were going to hit some shots in the second half. …

"We definitely can shoot the ball 1 through 5 really well. We definitely have some really good shooters on this team, for example, Jemarl (Baker) and Tyler. I just feel like guys haven't been shooting in the game as capable as they are."

With an 'enthusiasm for defense,' Kentucky starting to celebrate stops

By: Tim Sullivan | Courier Journal | Jan. 27

Defense should not slump. Defense does not depend on delicacy. It does not need to be as carefully calibrated as the angle of one's elbow in relation to one's wrist in executing a jump shot.

It requires perspiration and pride, coordination and common purpose. And it gives you a chance to win when your aim goes awry.

It should give Kentucky a chance to go

far in the NCAA Tournament.

"I'd say the biggest change as far as us maturing is just our enthusiasm for defense," UK forward Reid Travis said Saturday night. "We're starting to celebrate stops. We're starting to celebrate guys trying to shut down guys and things like that.

"It's not all about offense. We're losing ourselves in the game, in the flow of playing good defense. I think that's the biggest thing that's really propelled us to win these games."

Saturday's 71-63 victory over Kansas was the Wildcats' 16th in 19 games, their sixth in a row, their third straight against a ranked opponent and likely their highest-quality win of the season. Travis, PJ Washington and Keldon Johnson all reached double figures in both points and rebounds, enabling UK to bludgeon Bill Self's Jayhawks on the backboards (49-36) and outscore the visitors in the paint, 38-20.

Yet while Kentucky's front-line physicality is formidable, responsible for a plus-52 rebound advantage over the past five games, some of Saturday's statistics were inflated by a matchup conducive to bullying basketball. Down one inside presence because of injury and another because of ineligibility, Self has tried to compensate with a four-guard lineup that leaves him dangerously "light in the butt."

Thus, Kentucky's ability to push Kansas around inside was not so much an achievement as a foregone conclusion. More meaningful, at least insofar as projecting toward March, this was another good night for being on guard.

In missing 40 of its 63 field goal tries, Kansas became the fourth UK opponent in five games to fall short of 40 percent shooting from the field. In the three previous instances, Vanderbilt, Georgia and Mississippi State all set or matched season lows in scoring.

The same bunch that got blown out by Duke in the season opener, yielding 118 points in the process, has evolved from soft to stingy with seven full weeks left before Selection Sunday. By the compressed standards of a basketball program built around an ever-changing cast of aspiring professionals, this is unusually ahead of the standard schedule.

Spring, it appears, has come early to Rupp Arena.

"I wouldn't say we're ahead of schedule," Johnson said. "We're just playing our basketball. ... We just focus on each other and lock in. I know there's a lot of people out there who feel we haven't clicked yet.'

And have they?

"Yeah," Johnson said. "A little bit."

Kansas was the first UK opponent since Duke to limit its turnovers to single digits (eight), but Dedric Lawson was the only Jayhawk who made more shots than the Wildcats' Nick Richards swatted away in a nine-minute, five-block cameo appearance. Kentucky would get no points out of its bench against Kansas, but John Calipari's ability to exert pressure while resting his regulars bodes well for the bigger games ahead.

Defense is about desire and maintaining discipline. It is about knowing your place and getting in the other guy's face. It is the part of Kentucky's game that holds the most promise.

"It takes pressure off everybody," Travis said. "You're not kinda strung tight, thinking about making or missing shots. ... It's kind of lower stress than it is on the offensive end.

"Everybody's kind of tied together as far as getting stops. I think that's helped everybody play better. Lose yourself in the defensive end, play as hard as you can and everything else will work itself out."

Vandy coach says PJ might be college basketball's most improved player

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 29

NASHVILLE -- Improve your perimeter game. Sustain effort for longer periods of time.

That was the message NBA people conveyed to PJ Washington in the pre-draft process last spring. How he took that to heart after deciding to return to college for a sophomore season was on display in Kentucky's 87-52 victory at Vanderbilt on Tuesday night.

"Yeah, I felt it was great to come back and work on my game and show more of what I can do," Washington said after the game. "I've done a great job of that so far. Just trying to continue to do that and be aggressive."

Washington led Kentucky with 26 points and 12 rebounds. He also equaled a career high of three steals and — are you watching, NBA? — made all three of his shots from beyond the three-point line.

Vanderbilt Coach Bryce Drew was impressed.

"Oh my goodness," he said. "PJ was sensational. ... I'm trying to think if there's a player more improved than him in the country. I mean, he's shooting the ball like he's a two-guard. Obviously, with his length, he's finishing.

"It shows what hard work in the offseason can do. ... Credit to him. Compliment to him for turning his game completely around from last year to this year."

Washington increased his total of three-point baskets to 17. He only attempted 21 last season. His current accuracy of 41.5 percent (17 of 41) compares favorably with last season's 23.8 percent.

"I've just been in the gym working on it," he said. "I've been working on it a lot this year. ... Hopefully, it keeps paying off."

Washington's 21 points against Mississippi State and 20 against Kansas marked the first time he'd scored 20 or more in back-to-back games. He stretched that streak to three games at Vanderbilt.

Ever the demanding coach, John Calipari continued to raise the bar of expectations for Washington higher and higher. With 18 points and 10 rebounds at halftime, Washington was on pace for Calipari's stratospheric goal for the sophomore forward: 35 points and 20 rebounds.

"He just said be this person every night," Washington said of the message he received from the UK coach. "He's not letting up on the gas with me. ... I have to come out with a different mindset than I have before."

Calipari suggested that Washington is better at handling the inevitable reversals of fortune in a game.

"There's no coolness," the UK coach said. "When something goes wrong, he doesn't go cool now. Act like it doesn't matter. Now, he bows his neck.

"And the other thing is he's taken on the challenge."

Washington has been likened to a Draymond Green in the making. He seemed to like that idea.

"I just feel I can affect the game in many different ways," he said. "I'm just trying to come out and be aggressive."

In Kentucky's crowded front court, Washington's increased production means less playing time for others.

"I told EJ (Montgomery), you have to deal with it," Calipari said of Washington's emergence. "I've been waiting a year and half (for it to happen)."

Is Nick Richards ready to embrace his inner dog for Kentucky basketball?

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Feb. 1

Reid Travis was one of the few Wildcats to struggle for most of Kentucky's blowout win at Vanderbilt on Tuesday.

But UK coach John Calipari was confident Travis' performance this season was steady enough to make sure his one point in Nashville was no concern. So, with the Wildcats up big in the second half, he chose to focus his coaching efforts on a different big man.

"I told Reid I got to get Nick (Richards) in there and let him play through some of the stuff, because we've got to get Nick going," Calipari said.

Richards logged 12 of his 19 minutes in the second half, totaling 11 points on 3-of-4 shooting with three blocks. He finished the game with a season-high 14 points and four blocks.

The win marked the first time Richards had played more than 15 minutes since the third game of the season.

"Coach was trying to get me going in the second half," Richards said. "I didn't do much in the first half."

As Kentucky jumped out to a 30-point halftime lead, it looked like another forgettable night for Richards after he was relegated to the bench for failing to block out on a rebound, surrendering a put-back dunk.

But after Calipari made the decision to let Richards work through some of his struggles with the outcome already decided, Richards' shot-blocking and dunking ability were on full display.

"Look, Nick Richards is a unique basketball player in a time where there's not many 7-footers that can change shots around the basket," UK associate head coach Kenny Payne said before the game. "We need that from him. He has a lot more than his size, a lot more. We're probably seeing 50 percent of him. We want 110 percent of him."

In his last two games, Richards has blocked nine shots in just 28 minutes. He has blocked at least three shots three times in the last five games and has recorded eight more blocks than any other Kentucky player this season despite ranking eighth on the team in total minutes.

Richards reached double digits in points for just the second time this season. He averaged just 2.4 points per game in the 14 games in between.

The sophomore 7-footer bested that average on the last two possessions at Vanderbilt alone with consecutive lob dunks off passes from post partner EJ Montgomery.

"Run that floor, block some shots, go be tough around (the rim)," Calipari said. "We'll throw you some lobs, make some free throws and all of the sudden kid you're a totally different player."

Richards' performance should build confidence moving forward, but there was still room for improvement.

He grabbed just one rebound, marking the third time in four games he had been held to that total. Considering Richards has a 19-rebound game on his resume this season, it seems unlikely Calipari will be willing to accept that number regardless of how many points Richards scores or shots he blocks.

But Travis' struggles against longer, more athletic bigs in recent weeks — he was held to single digits in points in five of the last seven games — have reinforced the need for Richards to contribute in certain matchups.

It's no wonder then Richards' teammates and coaches continue to point toward him as an x-factor for the success or failure of the season.

"When you look at film, when you watch Reid Travis fight for rebounds, fight for offensive rebounds, play with a physicality to the game," Payne said. "And then you watch Nick, who at times does it, but at other times he gets fatigued and he lets go. ... Nick has some dog (in him). We need him to embrace having more dog."

Just getting started: Kentucky's Jemarl Baker Jr. finally gets his chance to prove he can hang

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Feb. 1

If he'd known about the 4 a.m. wakeup calls, the blankets and the pillows in the backseat of the family car, the four years of hourlong predawn daily commutes to spill a pint of sweat in an empty high school gym before the first-period bell, maybe John Calipari would not have been wrong about the challenge he was about to put in front of Jemarl Baker Jr. But he sure was.

See, in the spring of 2017, Calipari needed a shooter and he heard about one in California who had suddenly become available, so he scrambled a private jet, zipped across the country and showed up at Eleanor Roosevelt High School about an hour east of Los Angeles to tell this kid he thought was just a 3-point specialist what he tells every recruit: "This is going to be the toughest thing you've ever done in your life." Calipari had no idea, and that was before he knew Baker would endure two knee surgeries and a year-and-a-half hiatus from basketball.

Jemarl Baker Sr. was thrilled that Calipari was there to offer his son a scholarship, but the father remembers thinking: You're wrong about us. Sure, to Calipari's point, with all the talent he signs every year and all the pressure that comes with playing at Kentucky, "most people don't want to take on that challenge," Jemarl Sr. says. This is Kentucky, where the measure of high school success is not just five stars next to your name but whether you played in the McDonald's game. So how would a (gasp!) four-star guy such as Baker, who was only ranked the nation's 73rd-best player in the Class of 2017, handle it? "Most people," Jemarl Sr. says, "haven't done what my son did just to get to that point, to have this school he loved and rooted for come along and offer him the chance to take on that challenge. So the type of kid Jemarl is, he said, 'Let's go. Let's do it.' "

And just like that, Baker's second recruitment was over before it had even really started. Right after Jemarl backed out of a longtime commitment to Cal (because Cuonzo Martin left for Missouri), Baker's high school coach got calls from Virginia, Gonzaga, Oregon and Marquette, among others. Why, yes, they would have interest in a 6-foot-4 combo guard who sank 94 3-pointers and won a state championship as a senior, hit 44 percent of his treys as a junior and led the Under Armour grassroots circuit in made 3s during the summer in between. Perhaps they'd seen the YouTube videos with titles such as "Jemarl Baker Reminds Us of Ray Allen" and "Wettest Jumper in HS?" in which he assaults the net with beautiful, dive-bombing shots from silly distances. Or the ones that show

Baker giving the two youngest Ball brothers a total of 68 points and 15 made 3-pointers in a pair of meetings. Or him hitting his first six 3s on the way to 34 points against the travel team of five-star point guard Trevon Duval, who would sign with Duke.

Because Baker had been committed to Cal for nearly two years at that point, the only thing most college coaches knew about him could be found on stat sheets and in those highlight reels. And to be clear, those were not misleading. "He's probably the best shooter I've ever coached," Roosevelt High's Stephen Singleton says. "If he's on a fast break, go ahead and shoot a 3 — because I always thought his shot was going in. That's how pure it was." It's just that there's more. To his game and his story.

The only person on Kentucky's staff who had an inkling of what the Wildcats were getting was assistant Joel Justus, who'd noticed him while hunting other prospects on the summer circuits. "You saw a guy who is a basketball player," says Justus, explaining that Baker could defend multiple positions and play both shooting guard and point guard. He was Roosevelt's primary ball handler as a senior and averaged 4.1 assists per game. "When we're recruiting backcourt guys, you always want someone that can create for themselves but first and foremost create for others because of what we're going to have here," Justus says. "The type of guys that we're going to have and the type of players that have the type of dreams that they do, you need guys that can create for other people first but are also a threat, that have to be guarded."

Just a dozen games and 102 minutes into the delayed start of his college career, Baker has already shown he's the latter. He made two 3-pointers in his first three minutes on the court and is 8-of-20 from deep on the season. He's hit from both corners, both wings and the top of the key – that one coming against rival Louisville, no less. And he drained a perfect pair on Tuesday night in a rout at Vanderbilt, rising, firing, flicking his right wrist and holding his follow-through as both daggers plunged straight into the heart of the net. As advertised, he has the best-looking stroke on the team. But more important, some inside the program say he might have the best overall feel for the game, too.

"Jemarl Baker went in and was just playing basketball," Calipari said after he converted a four-point play and dished three assists in just 13 minutes against Texas A&M on Jan. 8. "Wasn't playing for himself, wasn't trying to get his. If a guy was open, he threw it to him, and guess what? It changed the whole complexion of the game."

His career stat line at Kentucky looks more like that of a single game in high school, but notice there's a little bit of everything: 25 points, seven rebounds, six assists, a block and a steal. He is finding small ways to give the Wildcats a lift as their ninth man and, as a result, might be morphing from luxury at the end of the bench to a viable weapon who can demoralize opponents. Imagine weathering the storm of Ashton Hagans, Tyler Herro, Keldon Johnson, PJ Washington and Reid Travis, all of whom might play in the NBA one day, and then here comes this guy, playing aggressively on defense, unselfishly on offense and completely capable of catching fire from deep.

"Whatever I can do to help my team win, however I can, whether I play four minutes or 15, I'm going to do it," Baker told The Athletic this week. "Just like my dad taught me."

Which brings us back to Calipari's idea that playing for Kentucky would be the hardest thing Jemarl Baker Jr. has ever done. Dad would beg to differ. See, just to get here, father and son spent four years driving back and forth in the darkness from their home in Menifee, Calif., to Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Corona — because basketball is bigger and better there — a trek of about 40 miles that can take anywhere from 45 minutes or two hours depending on traffic. To beat the rush, they'd often leave the house by 4:30 or 5 a.m., Jemarl Sr. driving, and Jemarl curled up in a makeshift bed on the backseat of their white Jeep Grand Cherokee.

"Honestly, not much bonding on the drive. I was knocked out the whole ride," Jemarl says. "But I'm really grateful to my family because I have this dream and they all want to help get me there. My sisters helped a lot, too, sat in a lot of traffic and drove a lot of miles just to get me home from school some days. It's really crazy what they did for me, and it's something I'd like to do for my kids someday. Whatever they want to do, I'll help them get there, whatever the cost. My dad has definitely sacrificed a lot for me."

Jemarl Sr.'s work was just beginning every morning when they got to school two hours before teachers and students arrived. They had a key to the gymnasium and time to kill, so the father, who averaged 9.1 points as a senior guard at Cal State Northridge in 1990, put his son through rigorous basketball workouts — defensive drills, footwork, shooting, conditioning — even on days when he'd have an afternoon practice or an evening game. Oh, and if Pops noticed his son's effort was lacking in one of those games, there was hell to pay.

On the rare occasion Jemarl's effort did not rise to the level expected, Jemarl Sr. stopped at a park about three miles away and told him to get out and jog home. Jemarl Sr. flipped on his hazard lights and followed along slowly. "My wife was not a big fan of that," he says, "but the point was to empty your tank." It also had a carryover effect: Both were running on fumes the next morning when that alarm clock sounded well before sunrise. But Jemarl still had to get up and do it all over again.

"It was definitely rough, but I think that's why I'm tough now and why I'm able to get through certain things," Jemarl says. "Like with the injury, I just remembered all the stuff I've been through to get here, and I know I can get through it. That's why when I get in games, I'm not afraid of anything."

Singleton saw that in a road playoff game against powerhouse Fairfax during his junior year. With 12 seconds to go, Baker's man drove, spun into the lane and then separated from him with a step-back to get off a go-ahead shot. Baker didn't hesitate, and his coach didn't call a timeout.

"I just said, 'Go! Go!' and he got the ball on the run, going right, crossed over left, got it to just above the block and put a shot right over their 6-8 kid, over his outstretched hand, real high off the backboard, and hit it to win," Singleton says. "He wanted the ball in those moments and was never afraid to take the big shot. Sometimes coaches call timeouts in that situation, but I've been told by a lot of mentors, 'If you have a player, just let them go and they'll make a play for you,' and he definitely did that."

The next year, Baker led Roosevelt to the school's first state championship, but it came at a tremendous personal cost. He tweaked his left knee during a holiday tour-

nament in December 2016 — someone clipped him from the side — but he only sat out one game and then played through the pain. He aggravated the injury in the state title game, according to Singleton.

"He never took days off, but he took a couple of weeks off after the season to see if his knee would heal up on its own, but it just kept bothering him. It was his meniscus," Singleton says. "When he got to Kentucky, they had surgery and thought they fixed it, but I guess they didn't clean it up the way it needed to be, so he had to have a second surgery."

Baker sat out all of last year, expecting to return at the start of this season — only to be sidelined by continued swelling and soreness in October and November. At long last, he made his debut on Dec. 8 against Seton Hall and scored his first points a few days later against Utah. He shocked everyone by playing 15 minutes against North Carolina in just his third college game, and he topped that with a career-high 19 minutes against the Commodores.

Baker admits he's still pretty rusty, says he doesn't quite feel like his old self again yet. He needs to get in "the best shape of his life," Justus says, because, "we're excited for him, but I think that we're still just scratching the surface of what he can become."

What Baker could become is something not seen very often at Kentucky under Calipari: a very good four-year player and reliable 3-point threat. But that would require some patience also not seen very often around here. Lately, players who haven't become stars by Year 2 in Lexington ship out – either to chase an uncertain professional career or pick a new program that will feature their talents more prominently.

For what it's worth, Baker's high school coach believes he is the staying kind.

"I think he's really going to surprise a lot of people when his role starts to expand on that team, whether it's this year or next year or whenever," Singleton says. "They're going to see that he's more than a shooter — he's a playmaker, a great defender, a huge competitor. The people who know Jemarl aren't going to be surprised when he does those things, but the people around Kentucky are going to find out."

UK fans, increasingly exhausted by the program's constant, drastic roster turnover, would love to keep Baker long enough to see that prediction put to the test. So far he and his family are saying all the right things.

"His time will come," Jemarl Sr. says. "Cal will put him in a position to be successful, and he's taking his time with him, to make sure he gets back to where he needs to be. Because he is coming off a two-year layoff. That's the great thing, which we truly appreciate, that he doesn't have to rush back physically or mentally and he can just take his time and grow. There are great players there who can handle it while he's doing that, and he can just play a role, whatever they need."

"If I didn't see the bigger picture, I could've quit," Jemarl says. "So it's super important to see the big picture and know where you're going, not necessarily when you're going to get there. Just know that you're going to get there, no matter what it takes and no matter what obstacles are in front of you."

There is one hurdle, other than playing time, that Jemarl will have to clear to enjoy a long, productive career at Kentucky: homesickness. He's more than 2,000 miles from his family, and the daily FaceTime conversations only partially fill that void. His father, uncle, four cousins and a friend from high school were in Lexington last Saturday for the Kansas game — the first time the family has made the cross-country trek to see him play — and "when we showed up, we could hear a lift in his voice, his spirit," Jemarl Sr. says.

To that end, Jemarl was hanging out with the family after playing just four minutes against the Jayhawks, and his father could tell he was getting agitated. Maybe the son was remembering an old message: Empty your tank.

"Dad," he said, "I got a lot left. Let's go." And off Jemarl went into the darkness, like old times, to hit the gym for a workout with his father. They arrived at UK's practice facility around 1 a.m. and stayed until 3.

"Oh, my gosh, yes, I get homesick all the time," Jemarl says, "but I know I have business here."

Not Kentucky's best effort but Cats win anyway -- now that's progress

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb. 2

GAINESVILLE, FLA. -- Let's cut to the chase and get to the crux of Kentucky's 65-54 win over Florida here Saturday:

The seventh-ranked Wildcats strolled into Exactech Arena on the wings of a seven-game win streak and promptly started jacking up three-point shots — 14 in the first half; 11 of which they missed — which was not the smartest way to attack the shorter Florida Gators.

The Cats won anyway.

In all, John Calipari's club fiddled for a good 30 minutes on the way to digging themselves an 11-point hole against a good team, with a good coach, on that good team's home floor.

The Cats won anyway.

Bottom line: UK played with nowhere near the intensity it used to dispatch a top-10 team in Kansas last Saturday in Rupp Arena or the domination it displayed in routing a reeling Vanderbilt on Tuesday in Nashville.

The Cats won anyway.

And that's the point of this particular victory, one in which the visitors suddenly caught fire to outscore the home team 33-12 over the final 12:32, including a game-changing 14-0 spurt that turned a 48-43 Florida lead into a 57-48 "Go Big Blue" chant inside the O'Connell Center.

Meaning: This Kentucky team no longer has to play its best basketball to beat a tough opponent on the road in a key conference game.

"It's tougher on the head coach," said Calipari afterward, when asked if his team got more out of Saturday's struggle than the 35-point cakewalk on Tuesday night in Music City. On the inside, however, you had to think the head coach was harboring a bright grin. "We're halfway up that hill."

Halfway through Saturday, you were sure the Cats were on the way to its first loss since Jan. 5. A good defensive team, Florida held UK to 35.3-percent shooting from the floor. On the flip side, however, the Cats had played against its scouting report, failing to find PJ Washington, the 6-foot-8 sophomore who had scored 20-or-more points in each of the past three games.

To make matters worse, the first seven minutes of the second half, the team appeared to have already forgotten whatever message Calipari imparted during the intermission break. UK's Reid Travis scored the first two points of the second half. Florida scored the next nine. Gators 42-31 with 13:56 left.

But then freshman big man EJ Montgomery came off the bench to grab an offensive rebound off a missed a free throw. That lit the fuse. Washington scored on a tip-in. Keldon Johnson nailed a three from the right corner. Washington scored inside after a perfect pin of his defender and entry pass from point guard Ashton Hagans. The train was rolling.

By the time Travis hit a pretty hook from the right baseline and Tyler Herro dead-centered a three with 2:50 left, the Florida fans had started heading for the exits while the (many) Kentucky fans in attendance were upgrading their seats.

"Even if we're missing our shots, if we keep playing defense we're good," said Johnson, who was three of seven from the floor after missing five of his six shots in the first half.

To be sure, Florida was tripped up by its weakest link. The Gators have a hard time hitting the strike zone. Not consistently, anyway. They missed 24 of 33 shots in the second half. And Saturday was the seventh game in which they have scored 60 points or less. It was the second straight Saturday, after a 55-50 loss at TCU last week.

"It didn't have anything to do with them," said Florida freshman Keyonte Johnson afterward. "We're the reason we lost this game."

Perhaps. Or perhaps Kentucky's defense played a role in Florida's struggles at crunch time. This was the fourth straight game and sixth in the last seven in which UK held the opponent below 40 percent from the floor. It was also the Cats' eighth straight win.

And this time, the Cats didn't have to play all that well to get it.

Confident Washington Leading UK in Play, Voice

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb. 4

Kentucky was out of sorts and down double digits. The Wildcats' seven-game winning streak was very much in peril.

In that moment, PJ Washington's inner monologue likely wasn't much different from the thousands of UK fans watching at home.

"I felt like we were starting to just play selfish again," Washington said. "I didn't really like that."

While fans were limited to expressing their displeasure to their televisions and anyone watching with them, Washington was able to voice his own in a team huddle. He did not hesitate to do so.

"I just said we gotta play together," Washington said. "That's what got us here and that's what's going to get us past the hump. We just gotta come out these last seven minutes, I think it was, and just play together and play hard. If we play defense, they can't beat us. That's the biggest thing."

He was proven right, as UK locked down on defense and locked in on offense to complete a double-digit comeback with a 34-12 game-ending run. Washington had 15 points and 12 rebounds in the win – his third straight double-double – and is averaging 20.5 points per game over his last four outings in addition to providing that kind of leadership.

"Coach (John Calipari) has talked about his energy and just the passion that he has had for the game," Reid Travis said. "It's just been great. It's just propelling other guys. If he's playing at that high of a level, everyone's got to lift their game and play with the same energy. It's been great for us to have him play that well."

With how consistently well Washington has played over the last two weeks, the narrative surrounding him is that some kind of light has finally come on. That's not how assistant coach Joel Justus sees it though. Instead, he sees Washington reaping the rewards of a new approach he has brought throughout his return for his sophomore season

"When we were practicing for the Bahamas, when we had summer practices, PJ was the guy that oftentimes was one of the first guys out to practice," Justus said. "Just like games, I think you see guys become that catalyst that Cal has been longing for. I think with PJ you saw it in practice with his mindset. I think you've seen it when we do conditioning and he's routinely the guy that's finishing first or second or near the top of every competitive drill that we're doing."

With a full season of that kind of work under his belt, Washington is confident in his own game. With that has come the kind of confidence it takes to lead.

"It just comes with work and just the work you put in, you gotta be confident in it," Washington said. "I'm really confident in the work I put in and I'm just happy that I got a group of guys that are working as hard as me."

With Washington helping set the tone, UK is playing at a high level. The Cats, thanks to their recent hot stretch, have made a return to the top five of both polls for the first time since the preseason.

"He's been tremendous in huddles both at timeouts and what we've seen on the floor," Justus said. "You've got to have that when you've got so many young guys and you have only a couple guys that have game experience, road experience, conference play experience. You're happy for him that he feels comfortable enough to really step up and be that guy."

Tyler Herro is shaking the stereotype that he's simply a shooter

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Feb. 5

Tyler Herro danced around the issue for months. Although he'd made it a frequent point to let everyone know that he is not just a shooter, the Kentucky freshman muzzled himself any time someone asked why he thought that label had stuck. There was always a shrug, a knowing grin and some version of, "That's just the way it is, I guess." But then assistant coach Kenny Payne, the most forthright and compelling interview in the program these days, got right to the point last week.

If you've noticed an uptick in Herro's energy, intensity and focus lately — more aggressive defense, a concerted effort to rebound, some slick passes, several creative finishes in the paint and, yes, a few onions-required sniper shots from the outside — it's because he's out to prove "in his words, 'KP, I'm a dog,' " Payne said. "In my dictionary, that means alpha, that I will fight you for everything you get, that I'm not just a white kid that can shoot, that I can play."

And there it is, the basketball stereotype so prevalent for so long that Hollywood hijacked it as the title of a Woody Harrelson movie 27 years ago. Herro can't speak for all white men, but he can jump — into passing lanes (24 steals in 21 games) and above the rim (eight blocks, three dunks). He can run too. Payne describes the 6-foot-5 guard as one of Kentucky's three "Olympic-style sprinters" who can blow by opponents like a blur on the break. Or chase Kansas' best perimeter scorer all over the floor until he stops even trying to get open, which is an actual thing Herro did less than two weeks ago.

Should anyone really be surprised, though, when a former top-40 recruit playing at Kentucky can do all these things?

"Unfortunately, that's any white kid: People just presume all he can do is shoot, that he doesn't have that dog in him, doesn't have that F-you attitude," Herro's father, Chris, says. "And I told him when he was young, 'If you want to be special, you can't just be a shooter. You have to rebound and defend and dive and do all the other things.' It's a credit to the Kentucky coaching staff that they've helped him get better at all those things."

Not just better. In conference play, through eight SEC games, Herro leads the team in minutes (33.5), points (14.8), made 3-pointers (14) and free throw percentage (100), ranks second in assists (2.2) and steals (0.9) and is third in rebounding (4.8). He scored 24 points at Louisville, 20 at Auburn and 19 in Saturday's comeback win at Florida, embracing the role of a villain away from home. Just like former Duke star Grayson Allen, Herro notes.

"They don't like good white players, seems like," Herro says.

But it's the defensive surge that has begun to turn heads. Lagerald Vick came to Rupp Arena on Jan. 26 as Kansas' second-leading scorer and only serious threat from beyond the arc; he's shooting 46 percent and leads the Big 12 in made treys. Stop him and Kentucky wins, the theory went, and it was a perfect plan carried out by a surprise stopper. Until Vick made a pair of desperation 3-pointers in the final 80 seconds of a lost cause, Herro held him to 2-of-6 shooting and four points.

Three days later at Vanderbilt, Herro was back at it, blowing by 6-foot-10, 240-pound Simisola Shittu's attempted screen and recovering fast enough to aggressively contest (and almost block) a 3-point try from Aaron Nesmith. The dangerous Nesmith had scored 24 against No. 1 Tennessee a week earlier and dropped 19 the next game at Missouri, but against UK he managed only three points and three shots in the first half, when the Wildcats built a 30-point lead.

"At the beginning of the season, I don't think anyone would say that I would be the guy to stop the other team's best player at all," Herro says. "Coming in, obviously I knew that I could score the ball, but if I want to take things to the next level, I had to complete my game and play defense."

And since Payne let the cat out of the bag, he can also finally admit this: "I guess I don't want to be labeled — just because I'm white — that I'm a shooter. If you don't look at my skin color and we just go play basketball, you're not going to say I'm just a white kid who can shoot."

No, he could've been the white kid who can fling a football 65 yards or throw a baseball 80 mph, Travis Riesop is convinced. "I've seen what kind of athlete that kid is," says Riesop, Herro's former coach at Whitnall High School near Milwaukee. "People used to ask him what he'd do without basketball and he never hesitated to say, 'Be a Division I athlete in something else.' I believed him, which seems crazy to say."

Maybe for someone less familiar with Herro's exploits, but Riesop can still vividly remember the last time he doubted the kid, watching him sprint full-speed into a thicket of four defenders who were waiting for him in the paint. Before the coach could complete his thought — "How the hell is he going to get out of this mess?" — the ballet had already begun. Herro lunged right to lose one guy and back left to shake another before bounding up to meet the last two in midair, where he ducked under them, hung for a beat as if suspended by wire and flipped a scoop shot into the net.

"People either loved him here or they hated him for what he'd do to their team and the swagger that he had about it, but if you asked any of them whether the suburban white kid from just outside Milwaukee is just a shooter, they'd tell you real fast, 'Oh, no, that kid is a dog. You don't mess with him, because that kid is the truth,' " Riesop says. "That's such a stigma about white players, that the only way they can make it is if they can shoot. Honestly, I've never even thought that was Tyler's best attribute." To his point, Herro's jumper has run hot and cold all season, and he has made just 34.7 percent of his 3-point tries. "I mean, he's the guy I wanted to take every big shot – don't get me wrong – but he can do so much more."

To the great consternation, surely, of Kentucky fans who'd hoped to have Herro stick around for two or three years, the secret is getting out.

• "Herro is really an underrated defender in my eyes," Kansas coach Bill Self says. "He did a good job on Vick, really good job. I thought he denied him the ball. We tried to fake-screen him a few times and do some things, and he always seemed to get through it."

• "I like him because he can score the ball in a lot of ways, he can defend, he can pass at such a high level," one NBA scout says, adding on a less technical note: "I like Herro because he has some real swagger to him."

• "That's one of the things he takes pride in," Payne says, "one of the responsibilities of him walking into this program: 'I'm coming here to show people that I'm not just a shooter. I'm going after people. I can play. I can put it on the floor. I've got wiggles. I've got swag. You name it, I got it.' "

• "(Scouts) love Tyler Herro. They went crazy" after the Kansas game," says Kentucky coach John Calipari. "You know what Tyler shot? Two-for-nine. Missed every jump shot and they said, 'He's your best player.' Why would you say that? 'Because he fights, he has a motor, he flies, he bounces.' "

• "Tyler has all the tools. He's way more than just a shooter. People who don't see that don't know the game," says Rex Chapman, a now-grown white kid who did a lot more than shoot at Kentucky and in the NBA. "Here's how I evaluate players: If a guy will fight you, he'll play forever. And Tyler will fight you. He'll drop the gloves. And by now, everybody out there knows it — nobody scares him — and that's the reason nobody on the court talks junk to Tyler. The NBA loves that."

Herro, right, has shown a willingness to grind and make hustle plays. (Marvin Gentry/USA Today Sports)

So while debunking the myth of the white kid who can only shoot, is Herro simultaneous playing his way out of Lexington much sooner than expected? Could he be another Devin Booker, a surprise one-and-done? Sam Vecenie, draft analyst for The Athletic, believes it is possible. Spoiler: Herro is going to make his debut on Vecenie's next Big Board, most likely ranked somewhere in the 40s, a range that would surely make for a difficult decision in the spring.

"If he had a great close to the season and went to workouts and shot the lights out, he could end up as a late first-rounder," Vecenie says. "However, I did not include him on my most recent mock draft, in large part because I think he has so much room for growth in regard to his

draft stock. If Herro was to return, I am a big believer he would be an All-American next season. And I think he could go in the top 20 — or higher — in 2020."

ESPN already has Herro slotted 18th in its 2020 mock draft. One NBA scout agrees that he could make a major leap as a sophomore, with one narrative-dashing caveat: that he become a more consistent jump shooter.

Because he's already proven he can do all the other stuff no one expects.

EJ Montgomery starting to prove recruiting hype legitimate

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Feb.6

Rarely has the last offensive possession of a blowout victory been so intense.

But, when Kentucky received the ball for a final play off a made South Carolina layup with 30 seconds remaining and the lead already at 25 Tuesday, UK coach John Calipari could be seen screaming directions from the sideline to his group of five reserves on the court.

It was the same type of intensity one might see from a coach shouting final instructions to setup a possible game-winning shot in a tie game.

Instead, Calipari's energy was being directed to make sure his team ran a play designed to get freshman forward EJ Montgomery an open jumper at the top of the key. The former McDonald's All-American had endured an up-and-down freshman season to date but was just two points from the first double-double of his career.

The play worked to perfection, and the 6-foot-10 Montgomery drilled a wide-open 3-pointer to set the final score at 76-48 and his individual stat line at 11 points and 13 rebounds in 20 minutes.

"It's a good feeling when you put in all the hard work every day to just come out and prove you can do it," Montgomery said. "… All the work I've been putting in in practice and the extra work, I knew my time was coming."

Montgomery arrived at Kentucky as the highest-ranked player in the Wildcats' 2018 signing class according to the 247Sports Composite at No. 9 in the country but quickly found himself relegated to the fourth spot in a four-man post rotation.

He averaged 19 minutes per game in Kentucky's first eight games but had not logged more than 14 minutes in the 13 games since before Tuesday night.

Along the way, his energy and rebounding prowess had been pointed to as helping spark Kentucky in brief cameos – most recently with an offensive rebound off a missed free throw against Florida on Saturday that Calipari and Gators coach Mike White called the turning point in the Kentucky come-from-behind win – but he had not scored in double digits since the second game of the season.

His previous season-high in rebounds was seven, which he tied in 11 first-half minutes against South Carolina.

"EJ wasn't a McDonald's All-American because he's no good," South Carolina coach Frank Martin said. "I don't know Cal's team, I'm not at practice every day, but he's got three guys on the front line, two of which started last year and are both real good and a fifth-year senior. So, I'm sure EJ keeps getting better because he's dealing with those guys in practice.

"He got an opportunity today. He was extremely active on the interior, he protected the rim, he rebounded every ball that came off the rim. It's a credit to EJ. They called his number today and he responded, played with physicality and just created problems for us."

On all but a handful of teams in the country, Montgomery would likely be a surefire starter averaging at least 25 minutes per game.

At Kentucky though, sophomore PJ Washington, who has been playing like an All-American candidate in recent weeks, and graduate transfer Reid Travis, a two-time first-team All-Pac 12 selection, have the starting post spots locked down and sophomore 7-footer Nick Richards, who started every game as a freshman, has been repeatedly pointed to as coaches as a key cog in the Wildcats' chances of reaching a Final Four thanks to his athleticism and shot-blocking ability.

Montgomery's teammates and coaches say they had no doubt about the freshman's potential though.

"We always knew he was capable of it," redshirt freshman guard Jemarl Baker said. "We just waited on the time. It doesn't always happen at the beginning of the season. It's always a process. Everybody is different. He's been working hard, and we just knew eventually he was going to have a breakout game."

It is unlikely Montgomery will contribute a double-double every night moving forward since he is unlikely to play more than 15 to 20 minutes per game, but even before erupting for 9 second-half points after the outcome of the game was already decided against South Carolina he had proven capable of filling an important role for the Wildcats.

With Kentucky nursing a one-point lead and 5:05 remaining in the first half, Montgomery checked into the game for the second time after Travis and Richards were relegated to the bench by foul trouble.

By halftime, the Wildcats had stretched their lead to 11 with Montgomery on the floor. He recorded five rebounds and an assist in that span and capped the half with a dunk with two seconds remaining.

"That's my focus now going into the games," Montgomery said. "Just focus on getting rebounds and playing defense and let the offense come to me."

Montgomery credited practicing against Travis, Washington and Richards every day as preparing his slim frame for matchups like the one against South Carolina, widely considered one of the most physical squads in the SEC.

It's an element of the breakout performance that was not lost on his head coach either.

"He's starting to come around," Calipari said. "This was a great game for him to prove it against a really physical team, that they're going to get body-to-body on you. He was able to still get it done.

"…I'm so happy for him. Every day in practice going against Nick, Reid and PJ has done this for EJ. When you say, 'Come with me and you'll get 25 and 12, don't worry about it, we'll play a zone, you don't have to guard anybody,' -- Here you got to get better."

'Perfect for the job': Hall cheers as Cal is about to pass him in UK victories

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb.8

Going into this weekend, John Calipari needed four more victories to replace Joe B. Hall as the second-winningest Kentucky basketball coach. Hall couldn't be happier.

"I think it's great," Hall said on Wednesday. "I want him to win every game he coaches."

Calipari went into Saturday's game at

Mississippi State with 294 victories as UK coach. Hall, whose 13-season run as UK coach ended after the 1984-85 season, won 297 games.

Hall saw confirmation in Calipari's number of victories as Kentucky coach.

"It just proves what I said when we hired him," Hall said. "He was born to coach at Kentucky."

When asked what he meant, Hall said, "He fits the bill in every category. He stands up for the tradition. He's won over fans. He's a marketing expert. He loves his job. He loves Kentucky.

"And it shows in his enthusiasm and his all-out effort in recruiting. He's perfect for the job."

ESPN analyst Fran Fraschilla, a longtime friend of Calipari's and an admirer of Hall, saw this impending milestone as something worth celebrating.

"It's a great honor to be able to get close to catching Coach Hall, who to me is one of he more underrated coaches in college basketball in the last 50 years, Fraschilla said. "But also one of the nicest gentlemen."

It probably should not be taken for granted that Calipari will breeze past Hall. UK is in a stretch of facing three straight opponents (and six in an eight-game span) that have been ranked at some point this season. The exceptions — Missouri and Arkansas — have received votes in The Associated Press Top 25 poll at some point of the season. This part of the schedule includes two games against Tennessee, the current No. 1 team in the country.

Still, Hall spoke confidently of Calipari continuing to build success upon success.

"He'll achieve many, many more wins," Hall said. "I wish he could pass everybody and stay long enough to do it."

Passing everybody seems impossible. Even if Calipari wins out this season, he'd need to be Kentucky's coach for another 19 seasons to pass Adolph Rupp's 876 victories.

"That's a different era," Hall conceded before adding, "Even I'm a little bit of a different era."

Barring a loss at Mississippi State or against LSU on Tuesday, Calipari could match Hall's number of victories next weekend against Tennessee.

"That would be a great one to do it with," Hall said. "And I wish him luck."

Seems like Kentucky basketball is on a roll, but Calipari begs to differ

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb.9

STARKVILLE, MISS. -- You probably think everything is going swell with your Kentucky basketball team, right Big Blue Nation?

It has rocked its way to a 10-game win streak. It beat back a furious second-half rally to top Mississippi State 71-67 on Saturday. It's 20-3 overall. It's 9-1 in the SEC.

What's not to like?

Plenty, says its mean old head coach.

"I'm holding these guys accountable," John Calipari declared Saturday. "Every one of them."

This was the post-game press conference edition of the afternoon's festivities inside a hepped-up Humphrey Coliseum. Minutes before, Calipari's Cats had watched their commanding 18-point lead with 16:31 remaining shrink to a single, solitary point with 8:41 left on the clock. And yet amid the roar that was the MSU fan base, the Cats responded, making enough plays down the stretch to top the Bulldogs for the second time this season and extend their win streak to double digits.

"Kentucky is a very, very good team," a disappointed Mississippi State Coach Ben Howland said.

Not good enough, however, in the eyes of its unhappy head coach. Or let's just say he wasn't totally happy, anyway. Happy with the SEC road win? Sure. Happy with the way his team is playing? Not so sure. Not when Calipari, who turns 60 on Sunday, knows a thing or two because he's seen a thing or two.

"It's my job to make these guys uncomfortable," said the head coach.

That's just what Calipari plans to do, starting with his best player, PJ Washington, the sophomore forward who led the way with 23 points Saturday on 9-for-13 shooting from the floor, including a perfect 3-for-3 from behind the three-point line.

"I think PJ is the best player in the country, but not like he played today," Calipari said. "He doesn't go get rebounds. He doesn't get loose balls. He missed one-footers, missed free throws. If you're the best, play that way."

Take EJ Montgomery, the freshman forward from Florida who has upped his game to the point where he can be a real factor come showtime in March. Two games ago, Montgomery grabbed three key rebounds in UK's win at Florida. Last Tuesday, he posted a double-double (11 points, 13 rebounds) in the win over South Carolina. Saturday, he passed up an open three from the corner that drew Calipari's ire.

"Dude, March, you've got to shoot that," Calipari said he told Montgomery, "So you might as well shoot that now, and if you don't make it and we lose, go in the gym and work on it, work on your confidence."

And later: "There are spells in the game," said Calipari, "where our decision-making appears to be, 'I'm going to do this play' versus 'What are we trying to do?'"

Complacency. You can tell, that's the thing Calipari is worried about now. He has a young team. He has team that is playing well. But he also knows it can play better — will have to play better — come March. And he knows it needs a push to get there.

"I held them accountable after the game," Calipari said. "I told them, 'It's a great win.' But believe me, I went right around the room. I said, 'If you want me to tell you everything's all good, it isn't.' I went right down, each guy. Not mean and screaming and cussing, I wasn't. You're here because you want me to keep it real."

Speaking of keeping it real, let's be real. In a made-for-TV gimmick, the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee announced its initial rankings on Saturday. UK was the top No. 2 seed. Howland called UK "maybe the hottest team in the country." And when the final horn sounded Saturday, the Cats had something difficult to come by — an SEC road win against a good team.

"We held onto the rope and our hands are bleeding right now," Calipari said. "Let me tell you, we just held on."

Yes, Big Blue Nation, these Cats are really good, but the head coach believes they can be so much better.

Cats Focusing on Own Mistakes, Not Final Play

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb.12

The focus for almost everyone is on the way the game ended.

Considering the drama – a buzzer-beating LSU tip-in reviewed by the officials – that's inevitable.

Just don't count the Kentucky Wildcats themselves in that camp.

"Obviously it's frustrating," Reid Travis said. "We put ourselves in a great position. A call like that, you don't know. It could go either way. At the end of the day, we should have made more plays to where it wasn't out of our hands at the end."

The fifth-ranked Cats (20-4, 9-2 Southeastern Conference) are taking a 73-71 loss to No. 19/21 LSU (20-4, 10-1 SEC) as hard as anyone. The difference is the last play is far from the only one on their minds.

"My view on the last play was we never should have put ourselves in that position," PJ Washington said. "We had a lot of breakdowns in the last five minutes. We can't win games like that. We gotta get in practice and work on it."

Washington had more big plays than breakdowns down the stretch, most notably when he scored five straight points to erase a five-point LSU lead with just over a minute left. He had 20 points for the game – his sixth game with 20 or more points in his last seven – but both Washington and his coach know the Cats should have put the game away earlier.

"He gave us a chance," John Calipari said. "He gave us a chance. But there's points in the game where you can get the game to 14, 15. You've got to play then."

Those points came early in the second half, when UK led by nine points on four separate occasions. Each time, rather than getting a big stop and delivering a knockout blow, the Cats traded baskets. That allowed the Tigers to gain confidence after a shaky first half, which most clearly manifested itself on the glass.

"We lost the game because of it," Washington said. "We just gotta rebound in the second half and that was just big for us. We didn't get the job done."

In the first half, UK dominated an athletic LSU team on the boards, 23-14, and held the Tigers to a mere three offensive rebounds in 20 opportunities and zero second-chance points. After the break, LSU won the rebounding battle, 18-16, and scored 12 second-chance points on six offensive boards.

"They're good," Travis said. "They're physical. They rebound the ball really well, but we knew that on film and I feel like we did a great job of sticking with the scouting report in the first half. In the second half, we got away from that."

Even so, UK managed to claw its way back in. The Cats even had the ball in the final minute in a tie game, only to watch Keldon Johnson's floater rattle around and somehow pop out. Travis grabbed the miss, but his pass out was intercepted, depriving Kentucky of a potential final shot to win the game. After that, Tremont Waters and Johnson traded made free throws.

Then Kavell Bigby-Williams had that tip-in.

"I think we do ourselves a disservice to get hung up on one call," Travis said. "We made a lot of mistakes down the stretch to where it shouldn't have come down to that."

Alas, it did, snapping a 10-game winning streak and starting a big week for Kentucky off with a loss. The good news is the week is only just starting, and with top-ranked Tennessee bound for Lexington Saturday, Washington only expects a tough loss to motivate the Cats.

"I know it will," Washington said. "We felt like we should have won that game and we didn't make the plays to win the game at the end of the game. We're looking to bounce back Saturday."

Ellen Calipari on her husband "The Roommate," their life together and the story behind her hilarous Instagram

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Feb.14

Ellen Calipari woke up alone today, Valentine's Day, her husband off on another recruiting trip. There were no flowers. No candy. No definitive dinner plans. Just a warm pile of vomit on John Calipari's side of the bed.

"One of the animals puked," she says, rolling her eyes — which she does a lot when she's talking about the Kentucky basketball coach she's been married to for almost 33 years now. "Happy Valentine's Day!"

And so now here she sits, across from a sportswriter, talking romance in a chocolate shop on this Hallmark holiday. "Oh, gosh, he's not romantic," she says of her husband. "Can you imagine him being romantic?"

I bought her a drink. Shoulda learned to take those trash cans out to the curb, Cal.

I ask her what her husband does around the house. Her eyes widen, incredulous, at the question about her beau, the Hall of Fame coach. "Nothing!" she yelps. "Absolutely nothing!" She cracks up laughing, a devilish cackle really, which she does a lot when she's talking about the guy whose ridiculous, preppy shoes with tassels first caught her eye back in 1982 when John was an assistant at Kansas and Ellen worked in the basketball office. Having grown up in rural Missouri, she had never seen such ridiculous shoes.

"I guess I thought he was cute," she says, rolling her eyes again. But mostly, she thought he was funny, quick-witted, didn't take himself too seriously. And that, says the woman who absolutely crushes him on social media and spends most of our interview outlining the laundry list of household chores he refuses to complete, is the real secret to everlasting love.

"I guess we just started out kind of making fun of each other," she says. "He has a great sense of humor. He's somebody I can match wits with and laugh with. He's still funny — not as funny as he thinks he is, but still funny. You can't be serious. You have to laugh about life, laugh things off, make fun of each other."

Which brings us to Ellen Calipari's new Instagram account (@cal_mrs), which is why we've met here at Chocolate Holler, where the "Sleeping Bear" hot chocolate with a double shot of espresso gets her seal of approval and mine. I needed to know how this online persona came to be. How this account, which was just activated in December with help from daughter Megan and has already grown to more than 19,000 followers, suddenly became the best and most hilarious window into the Calipari family.

See, for the first several years of John Calipari's decade in Lexington, Ellen was hardly ever seen and almost never heard. She seemed to be hiding from the spotlight. And now here she is posting biceps-flexing selfies at the gym, side-by-side comparisons of her wearing her kids' outfits — including son Brad's controversial high-fashion looks — and endless shots at her husband's lack of domestic skills.

"Well, there was a reason" she initially shied away from public life, Ellen says. "First and foremost, I'm a mother, and it was all about getting my kids adjusted, making sure my kids were happy, totally focusing on them, doing everything I could to keep everything out that I needed to keep away from them — protect them. Because they do have to be protected and we do live a very normal life. Or I try to

keep it very normal, so they don't know it's anything more than normal. Now they do, once they got older."

And that's what changed. Daughters Erin and Megan are both out of college and well into careers as a neuroscientist and a baker, respectively, living in Nashville and Boston. Brad is a redshirt sophomore walk-on for his dad at UK, living in the dorm with his teammates, but not shy about bringing home laundry for Mom, which we know because of Ellen's Instagram.

"Everyone is good," she says of her adult children. "Everyone is in a good place. Now I can join the fun."

Erin (33,000 followers) and Megan (29,000) have long been social media stars, poking fun at everyone in the family on Twitter and never hesitating to put critics of their father — and as of here late, their little brother — in their place.

"I like the way they can eloquently put things in their place when they need to and be funny when they want to," says Ellen, who also has a Twitter account that is under an alias. She's a follower only in that medium. "Brad has me blocked," she says, cackling again. She had intended for her Instagram to be a see-but-not-be-seen account too, but somewhere along the way, she couldn't resist the urge to get in on the jokes. "I can't remember how or why I started," she says. "I think a lot of things started in response maybe to something the girls would say – or maybe retaliation for something they said, because otherwise, I had no voice for a comeback."

Boy, has she found her voice in the last two months. If shade was a football, Ellen would be the John Elway of throwing it. From Jay Bilas — for a recent Twitter kerfluffle with her daughters — to her husband, who she refers to as The Roommate in most of her posts about his shortcomings.

"It has been fun," she says, giggling and cutting her eyes mischievously. "Oh, my, it's nice."

In just a couple of months, she already has posted 10 images of the trash cans that John Calipari almost never drags to the curb. "He won't even put the bags of trash in the cans!" Ellen says. In a Jan. 22 post, she shared that a plumber brought the cans back up to the garage. "Chivalry lives," she wrote, " just not in my house." She knows this is why her account has quickly caught on with Big Blue Nation.

"Because I'm killin' my family," she says, "and they like to see that. But that's how we live our life, so to us, it's normal to spar with each other and match wits. That's our way of having a good time, and now we're just kind of doing it publicly. People live off perception when they don't really know us, and I think this is the way that people get to know us, which is a little odd sometimes, putting yourself out there for so many people. But I grew up in a small town in rural Missouri and everyone knew who I was — my mom worked at the school and my dad was on the school board, and there were 40 people in my graduating class — so you couldn't do anything without everyone knowing. So I have nothing to hide. We live a life with nothing to hide. We don't cheat on each other. We don't do anything that we need to hide. We live a disappointingly normal life."

Only, it isn't disappointing at all. It's a hoot. And it resonates with the Kentucky fan base to see that the $8 million a year coach – private jets and mansion aside – lives a lot like they do. He has a well-worn old recliner that he sinks into after work. "I say to the girls, 'You can't even speak in sentences, just words, because if you talk too long, he's out – he's done listening,'" Ellen says, rolling her eyes again. "And some people have said that (after seeing her Instagram): 'Oh, he's normal. Oh, he's like my husband.' "

And make no mistake, all jokes aside, Ellen is googly eyed in love with the "lazy" guy who won't shovel the driveway for her after a big snow (another Instagram post). She'll take pot shots at him all day, but mention outside critics, of which there are many, and her eyes turn into flame throwers.

"He just gets unfairly criticized," she says. "His whole career, just because he has such a strong work ethic and such a good rapport with kids and people, I think people want to put other things into that, that he's doing things he shouldn't be doing. He talks on the phone on speakerphone — I hear everything he says — and he has nothing to hide. You see that in interviews and things he does: He puts it all out there. He doesn't hide anything. If he did, I don't think I could be around that."

She starts listing the things she loves about The Roommate, who screams for her to come help when things break around the house.

"He's a good person, honest to a fault, generous to a fault," she says, "which brings me to some of the worst things he does." Another I-shouldn't-say-this laugh ensues. "One thing is inviting people to stay without telling me. And he'll have (his secretary) call and tell me somebody is coming in for the game and they're staying at the house – because he's a coward. He's afraid to call. He doesn't want an earache. Man up, you know?" Cackle, cackle, eye roll.

The Caliparis during the 2012 NCAA Tournament. (Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images)
If she gets a Valentine's Day gift from him later, there is a very good chance it will be regifted from something somebody gave him. Or a free promotional item he received. She starts to list some of the best ones over the years and stops herself, because the original gifters will recognize the items.

"He'll bring it home and say, 'I bought you this.' Clearly, he didn't," she says. "A couple years ago, he'd gotten a Tiffany pen, so he wrapped it and gave it to Megan for Christmas. Well, he didn't even know that it had the Barclays Center logo on it. He had no idea."

And until this week, when UK sports information director Eric Lindsey spilled the beans after Ellen posted a photo on his phone, a hard-boiled egg and a caption indicating her husband did not know her number and had to have a friend call Ellen to bring him her stuff, Calipari had no idea she had been entertaining the masses at his expense.

"He doesn't care. He kills me too," she says. "All is fair in love and war."

Laughing together, and at each other, is the tie that binds them. So they will probably go out to dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day whenever John gets back in town from recruiting, but maybe not. And that's just fine with Ellen.

"We're so low-key, I really don't care," she says. "If he gets me roses, the cat loves roses. He will eat them. We get a card, and that's it. That's fine."

Hopefully, he'll recycle a card someone gave him, crossing out a stranger's signature and replacing it with his own, and she'll take a picture and post it on Instagram. Because the greatest gift any of us could get this Valentine's Day is Ellen Calipari roasting her husband. Again.

Kentucky basketball's rout of Tennessee 'shows how much we've grown'

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb.16

In more ways than one, an 86-69 rout of No. 1 Tennessee on Saturday night served as something of a growth chart for Kentucky, which barely three months earlier opened the season with a stunning 34-point loss to Duke.

"It shows how much we've grown," PJ Washington said after the fifth-ranked Cats not only defeated UT, but they made the Volunteers cry uncle. "It shows our potential."

The same could be said of Washington. His growth as a player was reflected by a team-high 23 points, the fourth straight game he's scored 20 or more, and the seventh time it's happened in the last eight games.

This from a player continually prodded by UK Coach John Calipari to do more and advised by NBA feedback last spring to play with more of a sustained effort.

"This year I just tried to change my mindset," Washington said. "Just work harder. I feel I'm more aggressive with my touches, and just trying to make things happen instead of sitting back and just letting things come to me."

Washington readily acknowledged being inspired by the matchup with Grant Williams, the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year last season. When the two first competed against each other last season, Washington so thoroughly got the best of it that Williams made a startling admission: the UK player had got in his head.

"When he said that, I felt I had an advantage tonight," Washington said. "I just tried to keep going at him, and keep going at their team."

It showed. Tennessee, which had trailed by double digits only once this season (down 12 to West Virginia), were behind by 11 or more points the final 19:09. UK led by as much as 24 points. The Cats took the lead for good 79 seconds after the opening tip.

Even UK players were surprised how they dominated a Tennessee that came to Rupp Arena with the longest active winning streak in Division I (19 games) and a résumé that included eight straight victories in "true" road games.

Tennessee's surrender was unconditional. Williams said the Vols were "soft" and "weren't Tennessee." Meanwhile, Kentucky enjoyed the proud program's largest margin of victory over a No. 1 team, surpassing the 70-55 rout of Florida on Feb. 4, 2003.

"We were just allowing them to bully us," Williams said. "They 'out-physicaled' us, and that's not our identity. We've always been the tougher team, and that shows we were phonies."

After watching his team fall to 23-2 overall and 11-1 in the Southeastern Conference, Tennessee Coach Rick Barnes echoed his star player.

"They dominated us in every way we could have been dominated," he said.

Kentucky, which improved to 21-4 overall and 10-2 in the SEC, won the rebounding battle 39-26. UK outscored Tennessee in the paint 36-20.

Washington, the player who used to have the suspect motor, was everywhere. He got UK off to a good start by scoring the Cats' first seven points.

When Tennessee got within 31-27 late in the first half, Washington scored on back-to-back post-ups.

Washington contributed three points to Kentucky's 14-0 run to open the second half. That put the Cats ahead 51-31.

And when the Vols closed within 11, Washington scored seven of UK's next nine points to blunt the growing unease.

"No lapses, none," the hard-to-please Calipari said of Washington's play. "Get to where you're a vicious competitor the entire time. And then sub yourself."

When asked if he was vicious, the usually cooperative Washington said in a deadpan tone, "I've always thought of myself as that." Many in the gang of reporters standing in front of him joined him in laughter.

Calipari noted how Reid Travis helped give Washington room to operate by occupying Tennessee center Kyle Alexander.

"He was a beast against another beast," the UK coach said of Travis. "Like it negated that. You're not going to dominate us. …

"So now PJ could go and do what he does."

Calipari said he advised Washington to thank Travis with a hug.

Barnes saluted Washington. "PJ Washington had his way in the game," the Tennessee coach said. "He got what he wanted."

Washington credited his improved motor to getting in better shape. Associate Coach Kenny Payne directs a series of sprints each day. Washington defined the sprints as "15 touches in a minute-30." Which, he said, meant running baseline to baseline 15 times in 90 seconds.

"We hate it," Washington said with a smile. "But it's good for us in the long run."

On dream night in Rupp Arena, Kentucky 'regains' its indispensable player

By: Mark Story | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb.16

John Calipari used a post-practice video session Thursday to essentially file a basketball missing persons report.

With No. 5 Kentucky coming off an upset home loss to LSU and about to face No. 1 Tennessee, Cal put an all-points bulletin out for "the absent" Ashton Hagans.

"It was video of our North Carolina game," Calipari said of the contest in which the freshman point guard essentially turned the arc of UK's season with a stellar eight-steal performance. "Do you remember how Ashton played that game … diving, tipping, fell into the stands, the bench, and then came down and stole the ball?

"What I basically said — we watched nine clips of (Hagans) — 'Now, we don't have this guy anymore. I don't know where this guy went, but if we ever get him back we would be really good.'"

On what was a dream Saturday night in Rupp Arena, the Wildcats rediscovered their indispensable player and Kentucky was actually better than "really good."

With Hagans expertly directing Kentucky on both ends of the floor, the Wildcats dismantled the No. 1 Volunteers 86-69 before a raucous crowd of 24,467.

"Plain and simple, they beat us every way they can beat you," Tennessee Coach Rick Barnes said afterward.

One would expect that blowing out the nation's top-rated team would require a total team effort — and that's what the No. 5 Wildcats (21-4, 10-2 SEC) delivered.

Continuing his recent trend of exceptional play, Kentucky power forward PJ Washington (23 points, five rebounds, two blocked shots) outproduced reigning SEC Player of the Year Grant Williams (16 points, eight rebounds).

UK swingman Keldon Johnson (19

points, 3-of-6 three-point shots) showed the form expected to make him a first-round pick in the 2019 NBA Draft.

Kentucky shooting guard Tyler Herro surprised everyone with a 15-point, 13-rebound double-double.

Wildcats post player Reid Travis (11 points, eight rebounds, two blocks) used his defensive muscle to force UT's Williams off the block and, in doing so, allowed Washington to concentrate on his offense.

Yet, the guy who made all that good play possible was Hagans.

After three straight subpar games, the Cartersville, Ga., product delivered an indication on Tennessee's first offensive possession that "he was back."

Tennessee dumped the ball into the 6-7, 236-pound Williams on the block. As the UT star worked against Travis' resistance, Hagans dropped down and dug the ball away from him.

A tone was set.

For the game, Hagans finished with nine points, seven assists, two steals and only one turnover.

Though Tennessee point guard Jordan Bone put up good individual numbers (19 points, six assists, 8-of-13 field-goal shooting), Barnes said the offensive precision and unselfishness that has characterized UT (23-2, 11-1 SEC) in 2018-19 was nowhere to be seen in Rupp Arena.

A big part of that was "the return" of Hagans.

"Basically, he's the best part of our defense. He starts it," UK's Washington said. "Without him, we are not really good defensively."

Said Kentucky's Johnson: "Ashton is such an important piece to our team. We just know, when he's at the top of his game, we are a very good team."

In the three games prior to Saturday night, Hagans (who was not available for post-game interviews) was not only not at the top of his game. He was not very good on either end of the floor.

He had six turnovers in the first half against South Carolina. He struggled to stay in front of Mississippi State point guard Lamar Peters.

UK won both of those games anyway, but things reached a nadir when LSU lead guard Tremont Waters controlled the second half Tuesday night as the Tigers rallied from an eight-point deficit to win by two at the buzzer.

"For two games, he went downhill," Calipari said of Hagans, "then it affected us the last game. And, in this game, he came back."

There are only six games left in the Kentucky regular season. One of those, March 2nd, will be a return match with what figures to be an angry Tennessee in Knoxville.

But after the Wildcats walloped No. 1 before a giddy Rupp Arena crowd, one thing seems crystal clear.

When Hagans does not perform at his best, the Wildcats get outscored by double digits in the second half (42-31 at Mississippi State and 41-31 vs. LSU) and look nothing close to a Final Four team.

When Hagans does play well, Kentucky can beat North Carolina on a neutral floor, decisively best Louisville on its home court and run the nation's top-rated team out of Rupp Arena.

If Kentucky can keep from "losing" Ashton Hagans again, it has every chance to make March memorable.

PJ Washington is officially Kentucky's star among stars, leading the Cats' beatdown of No. 1 Tennessee

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Feb.17

Maybe it's because he had turned things around and his team had won anyway, but Grant Williams made the most unusual admission 13 months ago after Tennessee beat Kentucky in Knoxville. Of PJ Washington, then a freshman for the Wildcats who had thoroughly outplayed him before exiting the game for good because of a left leg cramp with 12:37 to go, Williams uttered the five words you should never say out loud: "He was in my head." More than a year later, armed with that knowledge, Washington burrowed his way back between Williams' ears on Saturday night at Rupp Arena and did not leave until the demolition of the No. 1-ranked Volunteers was complete.

"When he said that, I felt like I had an advantage," Washington said, grinning, "and I just tried to keep going at him and keep going at their team."

To that point, in fairness to Williams, who generally played pretty well, Washington did terrorize the entirety of Tennessee's frontcourt on his way to 23 points, five rebounds, two blocks and two steals in No. 5 Kentucky's stunning 86-69 beatdown. He scored over – and through – the muscle-bound Williams and Admiral Schofield and 6-foot-10 Kyle Alexander all the same. And all the same way: put his butt on them, get wide, spread that freakish 7-3 wingspan to announce his availability for an entry pass, catch it just outside the left side of the lane, back his defender into the paint, rise and spin and swish a right-handed jump hook. And then flex, mean mug and bask in the thunderous adoration of a positively pulsing crowd of 24,467.

After opening the game with a 3-pointer, Washington scored his next six baskets on that same post-up play, first over Alexander, then Williams, then three in a row over Schofield, then again over Williams. He also drew an early whistle on Alexander, who he fouled out in just 18 minutes, with that play. Washington fouled out Schofield too, with 4:42 to go, by gathering his own miss – outjumping both Schofield and Williams for the offensive board – and completing a three-point play. Earlier, Washington attacked the rim so hard as he was fouled on a dunk attempt that it was Williams who hit the deck hard. Williams spent a lot of time on the ground, including one play that technically was a foul on Washington but effectively was the message he'd come to send: Get that shit out of here. Washington rejected Williams so forcefully that Tennessee's star, the reigning and presumptive SEC Player of the Year, ended up flat on his back again.

"I think they're scared of him, honestly. Scared of PJ," said UK freshman guard Tyler Herro, who made like a bandit zipping around the frozen fear zombies for his first career double-double: 15 points and 13 rebounds. "I think a lot of people are scared now that he's scoring like he is and doing what he's doing."

What Washington is doing, for a month straight now, is playing like he is the SEC Player of the Year. And he might yet be if this keeps up. On Saturday he turned in his seventh 20-point game in the last eight, a hot streak during which he has averaged 21 points, 8.1 rebounds, 1.3 blocks, 1.1 steals and hit 12 of 24 3s as a 6-foot-7 power forward. In addition to the many, many millions of dollars the former McDonald's All-American has made himself by coming back and dominating as a sophomore, he has turned Kentucky (21-4, 10-2 SEC) into a serious national championship contender.

Because he has turned the Wildcats, steamrolled when he left the game last year in Knoxville and road-killed by Duke 3½ months ago, into the aggressor.

How is this for a change? Last January, John Calipari said: "They out-toughed us." On Saturday night, it was Williams' turn: "We were just allowing them to bully us," he said. "They just out-physicaled us tonight, and that's not our identity. We've always been the toughest team, and for that to happen shows we were phonies tonight." Rick Barnes, whose team had won 19 in a row but had not faced a top-25 opponent since beating then No. 1 Gonzaga on Dec. 9, put it this way: "They dominated us in every way we could have been dominated." He added that Washington "had his way in the game; he got what he wanted" and that Kentucky forced his team, known for its unselfish and unified play, into a bunch of one-on-one stuff that fractured the very essence of these Vols. "I told the coaches, 'I don't know what I'm looking at or where to turn,' " Barnes said.

Washington and the Wildcats have left a lot of teams feeling similarly helpless of late. If not for a blown basket interference no-call on 19th-ranked LSU's winning tip-in on Tuesday night, Kentucky might be riding a 12-game winning streak and sitting atop the SEC standings, not that the second part matters much to this group.

"Nah," Herro said, "we're not worried about the regular season. Big games are played in March."

Calipari's best teams that time of year, those who've gone deepest in the NCAA Tournament, all had one thing in common, in addition to an embarrassment of riches in the talent department: one true superstar who could put the team on his back and be the best player on the floor regardless of the opponent. As good as these Wildcats figured to be, what with seven former five-star recruits on the roster, that was maybe the biggest question mark coming into the season. Did this team have that singular star? It's starting to look like, yeah, Kentucky does.

"Being the competitor that I am, I would say yes, I feel like I'm the best player in the SEC," Washington sheepishly admitted on Saturday night, the first time in three hours that he had looked like anything but a lion. "But I feel like our team is the best team in the SEC, and without my teammates, I'm nothing."

Let's pause here, then, to acknowledge that truth. In the span of just more than two minutes in the middle of the first half, freshman wing Keldon Johnson caught fire. He launched five consecutive long jumpers and made four, including three 3-pointers, scoring 11 consecutive points for Kentucky as it built an eight-point lead with 9:22 to go before intermission. He finished with 19 points and continues to be a big-game boss (23 against Duke, 21 against North Carolina, 15 and 7 at Louisville, 20 at Auburn).

And how about Stanford graduate transfer Reid Travis, the luxury of luxuries at a place where sophomores pass as veterans, a brick wall into which Williams repeatedly ran face-first. See, for all the punishment Washington inflicted on the offensive end, Travis took on most of the defensive challenge against Williams, and he made the junior work for all 16 points. Williams had just four field-goal attempts. Travis finished with 11 points, eight rebounds, two blocks and a world map of new bruises.

"The difference maker," Calipari called him. "He was a beast against another beast. Like, it negated that. You're not going to dominate us."

Imagine being able to say that in the same season that started with a 34-point loss to Duke. But Kentucky can, because it has since won seven games against KenPom.com top-25 teams – Carolina, Louisville, Kansas, Auburn, Mississippi State (twice) and Tennessee, which the Wildcats led by as many as 24 points in the second half.

Because Travis was up to the challenge defensively on Williams, "PJ didn't have to play him (on defense), so now PJ could go and do what he does," Calipari said. "I told PJ, 'You need to hug my man after that game, because he's in the tub right now, he's on IV again after this game.' " Freshman point guard Ashton Hagans was terrific too, busting a four-game slump with nine points, seven assists, two steals and just one turnover. Beyond the box score, he was back to being a pest on defense — being the guy who, even before Washington, sparked Kentucky's turnaround.

"After practice on Thursday, I called the guys and we went in the locker room and on film, I said, 'I gotta show you some video,' " Calipari said. It was nine clips of Hagans dominating UNC back on Dec. 22, the day he announced himself to the rest of college basketball. "We don't have this guy anymore," Calipari told the team on Thursday. "I don't know where this guy went, but if we ever got him back, we would be really good." The Cats got him back against Tennessee.

All of that is great, because it takes a total team effort to win a national title and Saturday night was most complete team effort this Kentucky crew has delivered yet. But there is no single development that has been bigger for these Cats than the emergence of Washington as the Man. That man. The bad man. He scored UK's first seven points against the Vols, then he put on a jump-hook clinic. "I used to dunk it every time in high school, so it definitely developed here," Washington said, in what could be the entirety of Calipari's recruiting pitch to five-star 2019 forward Keion Brooks, an Indiana native who is also considering the dumpster-fire Hoosiers and sat courtside at Rupp on Saturday. "This summer, just working with (assistant coach) Kenny Payne, we did it over and over again, almost every day. I just try to jump as high as I can and throw it in there. I feel like I'm really athletic, so I just try to use that — and I got long arms."

Sounds so simple when he puts it like that. Looked so simple against Tennessee.

After the Vols (23-2, 11-1) scored 13 unanswered points to cut the deficit to 11 and give everyone in Lexington horrifying flashbacks to what happened down the road at Louisville earlier in the week, Washington killed the comeback. In a span of 23 seconds, he hit a driving shot against UT's zone, swiped a steal, got fouled, sank two free throws and juiced the lead back to 15.

"I felt like there was a point where we just hit a wall mentally," Tennessee junior Jordan Bowden said after a 1-of-7 shooting night, "and we just folded." Put another way, Washington folded the Vols. And yes, there is a much more daunting rematch coming in Knoxville on March 2. But mind games travel.

"You know, what makes me happy is when I'm hearing people call me and say, 'Cal, (Washington is) the most improved guy in the country.' When you understand that it's not going to be easy, that I've got to compete every day, you probably got it licked," Calipari said of his budding superstar. "No lapses, none. Get to where you're a vicious competitor the entire time and then sub yourself. Today, he subbed him-

self. And I hate to tell you, he got cramps (again). What does that tell you? It's probably harder than he's gone all year."

'Difference Maker' Travis Doing Whatever it Takes

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb.18

All the talk postgame was about Reid Travis's teammates.

PJ Washington dominated, Ashton Hagans rediscovered his mojo, Keldon Johnson delivered a 3-point barrage and Tyler Herro had his first career double-double.

Travis might have had a quiet night statistically relative to his fellow starters as UK blew out top-ranked Tennessee, but his game spoke loudest to his coach.

"The difference maker in the game for us was Travis," John Calipari said Saturday night.

Travis accepted the challenge of guarding Grant Williams for most of his 33 minutes. He limited the national player of the year candidate to a season-low four field-goal attempts – two of which came from beyond the arc. That freed up Washington to play his game.

"I think Williams has really tortured this conference with his physical play," associate head coach Kenny Payne said. "He's dominated this conference, not just this year, last year as well with physical play. Reid Travis – that fits right into his hands. He's a very physical forward who has really learned to move his feet and be defensive here."

Really, the Tennessee game is a microcosm of Travis's entire graduate transfer season at Kentucky. His stats might be modest (11 points and eight rebounds against the Vols) compared to what he produced the previous two seasons at Stanford, but his impact is supersized.

"I can't imagine Reid Travis not on this team and what he's meant," Payne said. "Imagine being at Stanford for the last two years, averaging 20 and eight and nine. You come here, the numbers aren't the same, but your impact on the program is more because now you're winning against the No. 1 team in the country. You're beating teams, and you're a major part of that, and it's not centered around you getting 20. You're playing with other great players. You're learning to sacrifice, to be a great teammate and to play winning basketball."

Travis's averages his last two seasons at Stanford were 19.5 points and 8.7 rebounds in 2017-18 and 17.4 points and 8.9 rebounds in 2016-17. He was a First-Team All-PAC 12 selection in both years and could have pursued a professional career after graduating last spring, but instead chose to take on the challenge of playing at Kentucky.

In doing so, he wanted to improve and expand on his game while playing on a winning team. He knew his stats would likely take a hit, and so they have. He's averaging 11.6 points and 7.1 rebounds, but that doesn't capture what he means to his team or how much more well rounded his game has become. It also doesn't capture that he's all but certain to do something he never did in his first four college seasons: play in the NCAA Tournament.

"At the end of the day I'm going to do whatever I can to help us win games," Travis said. "Whether that's setting that physical mentality, guarding guys down low, bringing leadership – whatever I can. For me it's every day just trying to bring it, be the hardest worker that I can and just help us win games. It's good to hear people say that they can see the impact. It's something I've worked on every day."

In the preseason, when Travis talked about wanting to grow his game at Kentucky, most likely thought of adding to his offensive repertoire and expanding his range. Travis, however, had nights like Saturday in his mind too.

"Defense was a big part of that as far as being able to guard smaller players if we do a switch or something like that," Travis said. "But, also in the post was being able to be reliable one-on-one, holding my ground without fouling and playing good 'D.' So, I feel like the last couple of weeks I've made strides as far as being more active, getting deflections, getting blocks and really just trying to guard my man a lot better. I'd say I've made big jumps in that. There's still a lot more to go, but I'm pretty happy with the way that I've improved in that."

Travis is still more than capable of a big night in the box score – think about the 18 points and 12 rebounds he had against Kansas – but that doesn't define success for him. Success, for Travis and Kentucky, is all about wins.

"For us it's one game, one week at a time," Travis said. "So, I'd say there's a lot of excitement. I think that's what really helps everybody is that we're all in here trying to get better, working hard every day. So you can really get over that mental fatigue when everyone has so much excitement about what's about to come for us in the next couple of games, next couple of months."

Twenty-five years after John Chaney wanted to kill him, John Calipari is practically Mr. Nice Guy

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Feb.19

Twenty-five years ago, John Chaney burst through the doors at the back of a postgame press conference at the University of Massachusetts with wild eyes, a loosened necktie, the top button of his dress shirt undone and a message for John Calipari that might as well have been on behalf of every college basketball coach on the East Coast. "I'll kill you!" Chaney screamed at the baby-faced, 35-year-old Italian wearing a fancy suit and a smug expression after a one-point win over Temple. "You remember that! When I see you, I'm gonna kick your ass! Kick your ass!"

On the silver anniversary of their infamous clash, having been held back that day from assaulting Calipari — and it took a crowd to keep them apart — Chaney answered his phone last week with a much different message: "We've been friends ever since," he said, laughing at the absurdity of such a statement.

They'd hugged it out at the rematch in Philadelphia just 11 days later. No one was threatened or harmed at Round 3 in the Atlantic 10 title game. Calipari won both of those too, and after the season he agreed to attend a diabetes fundraiser where either he roasted Chaney or vice versa (they have conflicting memories about that night) and bygones were made to be just that. "I wanted to put the stuff behind both me and him and let him know — let everybody know — it was the heat of a moment and I forgive him, so you should too," Calipari told The Athletic this week in a rare reflection on that iconic, if embarrassing, feud. "Did I bring that out of him? Probably. Was I trying to bring that out of him? No. But I probably did, and there was an overreaction, and now 20 years later they're still talking about it. And he and I are friends!"

The buildup, boil-over and reconcili-

ation between the two men is a perfect symbol of Calipari's transformation, at least in perception. Then: new kid on the block always looking to fight the biggest kid in the neighborhood to get everyone's attention and, more important, respect. Now: 60-year-old Hall of Famer with a pile of Final Four appearances and lottery picks, a national championship ring and a throne overlooking his kingdom at Kentucky, a perch from which Calipari prefers praising fellow coaches over picking on them.

"The one thing that John Chaney did teach me: If you become obsessed with another coach, you lose," Calipari says. "So any time I see coaches who are obsessed with me, my whole thought process is, 'They're losing.' Because I'm not going to be obsessed. My thing at this point is unless somebody makes it personal, I won't make it personal. It's just me doing my job, you doing your job, and if we're both about the kids, let's see how it turns out."

Calipari insists he has always been more or less this way, that he's always tried to be respectful of other coaches — and those who've known him the longest agree — but that doesn't mean he wasn't trying to routinely tick them off in those early years. Make them crazy even. And as a 29-year-old, first-time head coach when he was hired at UMass in 1988, he didn't take long to succeed at both. He had inherited a program stuck on a streak of 10 consecutive losing seasons and knew it was going to take something drastic to make anyone care about this no-name coach and his also-ran team.

"He was clearly trying to get attention to a place that got no attention. It was a state school, and nobody cared about it in Boston. Like, it had no media coverage. It was just a non-entity," says Dan Wetzel, a cub reporter at the UMass student newspaper then and a national columnist for Yahoo Sports now. "So Cal saw value in anything that got people talking, got UMass in The Boston Globe, got anybody saying anything about UMass basketball. And, look, he just liked to fight. He just liked to, no matter what he says. He was always looking for it. He was a Pittsburgh guy, a kick-the-door-down guy. He enjoyed it. So it wasn't like it was all fake — for show — because I think he liked getting into scraps, liked standing up for himself, and yes, he liked getting the attention that came with it.

"He would go, 'Why aren't you playing us? We'll play you anytime, anywhere.' And they'd schedule him and UMass would win. So he generated a rivalry with Boston College and Jim O'Brien, because that was the school that got coverage and fans in the state. Same thing with UConn and Jim Calhoun, because he wanted to recruit in Connecticut. And there was Mike Jarvis and George Washington. Anybody who wanted to have a rivalry, he was ready to go. At the time, he was an extremely ambitious, impatient, I'm going to do something that nobody can do kind of guy, so he would declare it, everyone would roll their eyes and then he'd make it happen. 'We're going to get really good here.' OK. 'We're going to be in the Sweet 16.' OK, whatever. 'We're going to win the A-10.' Yeah, right. 'We're going to beat the Big East for recruits.' Sure. 'We're going to be No. 1.' Gotcha. But then he did all that, he built the thing up to where it was no longer just this guy yapping out there."

Initially, Chaney could not be bothered to notice Calipari and his big mouth, much less be baited into a feud. He'd never lost to Massachusetts before the arrival of this slick kid who appeared to be all style. Then Chaney proceeded to win his first eight meetings against Calipari, so there was no incentive to wish him physical harm.

"When I took over at UMass, we were the fifth-losingest program in the decade of the '80s," Calipari says. "I didn't say in 1988 or '87. I'm saying for the decade we were the fifth-losingest. We had to create a culture that winning mattered, and as you do that, the people that you're trying to jump — if you go from last and work your way up the ladder, you're going to go over people. So as you climb, the people you're climbing aren't happy. I always used to say, 'If you lose every game, every coach in the league will love you. They'll think you're the greatest guy ever.' But you start moving people down, they're not going to love you and they're not going to be happy with you and they're going to throw accusations and everything else."

Maybe even fists, as he would eventually discover. Because by 1992, the Minutemen were starting to take on the personality of their plucky young coach, and that's when ruffled feathers started flying. "You cannot lose and develop rivalries," Chaney says. "When you win, rivalries develop."

Calipari won the first of five consecutive A10 regular-season and tournament titles in '92, went 30-5 and got to a Sweet 16 with a shooting guard who made just one 3-pointer all season, a 6-foot-3 power forward and a 6-7 center in the starting lineup. A bunch of fighters. And by the time UMass squeaked by Temple on that fateful day, Feb. 13, 1994, Calipari had his fourth win in his last six tries against Chaney, including the league championship game a year earlier. Being the brash guy who bucked the establishment was supposed to be Chaney's thing, but then this newer, brasher model came along and upstaged him.

Chaney won three A10 titles before Calipari arrived and five after he left UMass but just one in the eight seasons in between. That was hitting Chaney where it hurt, and the shifting balance of power had so clearly gotten to him by 1994 that everyone around the two coaches could tell tension was mounting even before it escalated into public threats of violence.

This is where Team Calipari tells a different story than the long-held perception of him as a fight-starter — although everyone agrees that as a younger man he was more than happy to join the fray if someone else threw the first punch.

"I was under attack," Calipari says now in defense. "I mean, we were upsetting the apple cart and they weren't going for it. Initially you sit back and take shots, and then you get to the point where enough is enough. So you battle back."

His wife, Ellen, who takes more (mostly playful) swipes at him than any of his enemies, bristles at the notion of her husband as a bully.

"I feel like you see it the wrong way," Ellen says. "He wasn't picking fights. I think the animosities came from, like, 'Who do you think you are?' Because he would beat these other coaches that had been longer established and they didn't like that. He's always been very supportive of other coaches — anyone that will have a rapport with him, he's totally open to that — but there comes a time when there are jealousies and other coaches just shut you out. Jim Calhoun, I mean, you don't even want to name names, but they were uncomfortable. You're the young guy. You haven't paid your dues yet. And I understand the John Chaney side of that, that he was an older, established coach, and here's this new young kid. Who are you? And he would beat him, and I think it just

frustrated John Chaney. And sometimes it's hard to hold back from wanting to say, 'I'm going to choke you. I'm going to kill you.' "

Bruiser Flint, an assistant under Calipari and his successor at UMass, agrees that his former boss was not so much guilty of instigating heated rivalries as having the audacity to believe a school with little history and a coach with no track record could win bigger than the programs and coaches who already had.

"He never disrespected them," Flint says. "Cal has always been a guy to give other coaches credit. He wasn't just going at guys. But back in those days, it was just about the climb. Other people were thinking, 'Who is this guy and what does he think he's doing?' Cal got a lot of attention, and people didn't like it. He made a big splash, and they didn't like it. He jumped in the pool, water got on them, and they didn't like it."

There is no better proof of that than this: Even decades after they buried the hatchet somewhere other than in each other's skull, Chaney still talks like a guy who is slightly annoyed by how much credit Calipari gets for pushing his buttons and building something out of nothing.

"Try and remember, when I first came in the Atlantic 10 (in 1982), we had a league that I couldn't understand why other teams didn't want to venture out," Chaney says. "I went out and played all the top teams. John was not in the league at this time. So when John came in, he just picked up the mantra that I set forth. Because try and remember, the Atlantic 10 did not have a TV contract when I came, because they were just playing each other and not branching out, so when I ventured out and played all of the top teams, we found that was one of the things that got the league a TV contract. When John came in, he decided to do what we did. He'll tell you that. Play anyone, anywhere. John did that after I did that first.

"I don't know that he picked fights. He was just a person very much like myself: We fought to get ahead and fought for our teams, fought for our players and the school, but we had a greater vision than just playing in the community. We both knew it was about getting on television, because that enhances recruiting nationally, puts you in position to become familiar to the youngsters all around the country, all the families. When you recruit, your name is very important — recognition of who you are and what you're doing is very important — and the television conveys that. We both knew that."

Imagine being able to burrow so deep under someone's skin that not even a quarter century of making nice can reverse that dig. It was truly one of Calipari's greatest gifts as he built Massachusetts and Memphis, outsiders like himself in a sport dominated by blue bloods, into nontraditional national powers. Both climbed to No. 1 in the polls and both reached a Final Four (and both achievements were later vacated, which adds to the Calipari-as-outlaw narrative, although he was never found at fault in either violation). But then he got his dream job, the ultimate validation, when the winningest program in college basketball history came calling in 2009 — and most of the fighting stopped. Because what was there to fight about now?

"With Anthony Davis and John Wall, you can't say nobody believes in you," Wetzel says. "No, everybody does. And I think he's just older, more mature now. Everybody changes, right? I think now he's secure and doesn't waste energy on things that don't matter. Because he's at Kentucky."

Oh, sure, Calipari still took a few shots at Rick Pitino and rival Louisville from time to time, but always in subtle enough ways that he could deny that those comments were even about them. He always praised Pitino publicly, even had him on his podcast a couple of years ago, and he passed on a chance to dance on Pitino's grave when a series of tawdry scandals cost him his job. Yes, he still takes some jabs at Mike Krzyzewski and Duke, which he said "cleansed" the then-controversial concept of one-and-done when the Blue Devils won a title with mostly freshmen three years after Kentucky did it. He still pokes at the recruiting pitches he learns other top programs are making to prospects (this is almost always Duke), but again in vague enough ways that allow for plausible deniability. Oh, and he had Coach K on his podcast too. Calipari is mostly Mr. Nice Guy now.

In fact, when it comes to coaches below his level, which is almost all of them now, Calipari is universally kind. At least in public. He is effusive in his praise of opposing coaches, obsessive in trying to prop up the leaders of other programs in the SEC. For years, it seemed as if he was the personal P.R. department for Mark Fox and Andy Kennedy, both of whom departed Georgia and Ole Miss, respectively, last season anyway.

"I'll be honest with you: There are some guys I know Cal has helped out that I say, 'I don't know why you do that, because I know what they've said about you and tried to do to you,' " Flint says. "Cal is always willing to extend his hand. Sometimes I can't believe he did it after what this guy or that guy said or did. I never thought that was fair, and I always told him, 'You're a better man than me.' "

"Getting fired and surviving did a lot to change me and how you do this," Calipari says, referring to the time in 1999 when the New Jersey Nets canned him just 20 games into his third season as an NBA head coach, sending him back to the college game at Memphis after a season as an assistant with the Philadelphia 76ers.

"Here's the other thing I know now that I didn't know then: This is a really hard profession. Now, it's rewarding in so many ways, and not just financially. But you find out it's hard enough, so why would I make it harder on that guy and his family? Why would I do that? Unless I have that in my bones, that that's who I am. And that's not who I am. I'd rather make it easier."

So there John Chaney was last week, now 87 years old, still simmering about those old battles with Cal, but also singing his praises. Calling him a friend and meaning it.

"John calls me about basketball sometimes," Chaney says. "He always calls me on my birthday (Jan. 21). Some years ago, I had surgeries on both legs — artery bypass — one leg one year, the other leg the next year, and both times John researched and found out where I was. I certainly didn't call anybody and tell anybody. He just found me. He found me in the hospital and then he found me in the rehab facility, and he called to wish me to get better. It's always quite a good thing when John calls me. Any time you grow as a human being, the fight that you had many years ago is not so popular. We find there are other fights to be won more important than something you'd fight about 30 years ago. When you look back on it, even the next day, you think, 'Maybe it was something that I caused, not him.' You look within yourself, find fault within yourself, and you begin to realize you've done something

that you certainly wouldn't want your kids and grandkids to see.

"And so as you grow as an individual, you begin to look for friendships more so than rivalries. You learn that you need friends, not enemies, when you're old."

How Reid Travis' injury might actually benefit Kentucky basketball

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | Feb.22

First, a caveat.

Kentucky is not a better team without Reid Travis. It is difficult to imagine the Wildcats making a serious run at a national title without his imposing presence in the paint for six consecutive NCAA Tournament games.

"If we're any time without Reid Travis, it makes us all nervous," UK associated head coach Kenny Payne said before UK announced Travis would miss at least two weeks with a sprained knee. "Not just us as coaches, not just us as fans, but also the players. Reid brings a physicality, a toughness, an experience level to our team that we need. But also if he is out for any time it gives Nick (Richards) and EJ (Montgomery) an opportunity to step up and make up for it."

And therein lies the potential benefit for Kentucky in playing a handful of games without Travis.

Assuming Travis returns in time for the Southeastern Conference Tournament, UK could benefit from an extended look at Richards and Montgomery.

Kentucky will need to keep winning games to stay in the hunt for a No. 1 seed, but coaches have insisted throughout the season the team needs one or both of the reserve big men playing to their potential if the team is to make a run at a national title. Now the duo will be given a chance to prove whether they are capable of fulfilling that promise in extended action on the court.

"Because we coach every player like they're starters, I think EJ and Nick, this is their opportunity," UK coach John Calipari said on his radio show. "I have great confidence in those two. … They've got to play to their strengths."

Before Travis' injury, Montgomery appeared to be trending in that direction, averaging 6.3 points and 7.3 rebounds in 14.5 minutes per game over a four-game span. His statistical impact in the immediate aftermath of the Travis injury was negligible with no points, one rebound and four fouls in 16 minutes at Missouri, but Calipari praised him for his defensive performance down the stretch as the Wildcats ground out the win.

As Montgomery's role has increased in recent weeks, Richards had played 11 minutes or fewer in each of the previous five games before Missouri, but he posted one of his best halves of the season in Columbia just before Travis was injured with 7 points and 4 rebounds in 7 first half minutes. Richards started the second half but quickly faded into the background with two fouls his only statistical contributions in six minutes after intermission.

"We're telling Nick, 'You get into a mud wrestling match with a 6-foot guard, who weighs 140, you're losing,'" Calipari said. "Now, that may be harsh, but 'You're going to get thrown to the floor — (like) Missouri — you're going to get pushed out of the way, you're going to hold on to the guy and then can't rebound. You're going to be so concerned with mud wrestling a guy drives by you and lays a ball in. Or, you can bounce, use your quickness and your length to your strength.'"

Calipari suggested Richards too often settles for the easy route in the paint, remaining engaged with an opponent while keeping his feet planted in one spot, instead of using his athleticism to grab rebounds, block shots and hammer home dunks.

Energy has rarely been a problem for Montgomery, but his slight frame is still a potential matchup problem against bigger and stronger post players.

"You don't have to be Reid," Payne said. "You just have to know that your contribution to this team starts and ends with defending and rebounding. If you can do those two things you're going to help us. And if you can do them for extended minutes you're really going to help us. And if you can get a couple baskets in between, that's just an added plus."

But if neither Richards nor Montgomery can be counted on to provide the same bruising presence Travis did while occupying much of Tennessee star Grant Williams' energies in Kentucky's blowout win over the Vols, who can pick up that slack?

Calipari pointed to PJ Washington, Kentucky's SEC Player of the Year Candidate, as the most likely option. With Travis controlling the interior, Washington has thrived floating away from the basket at times while avoiding double-teams when he does post-up in the paint.

"I told PJ, 'Now you've got to be that guy,'" Calipari said. "We have no one else to go rough house. 'You have to be that guy,' and that's what's going to make it hard for PJ. Let's hope he just has to hold the fort down for a couple weeks and we get Reid back and go."

Expect some growing pains while Kentucky tries to find the best strategy to play without Travis.

Calipari had been reluctant to pair Washington and Montgomery together before Travis' injury. Asked before the Tennessee game if he might use that lineup more often given Montgomery's recent improvements, Calipari left the door open to the possibility before quickly pivoting to highlight the need for Richards to find a role.

It would be little surprise then to see Richards takeover Travis' starting spot in the interim, but Calipari will need to experiment with several lineup combinations — including a look at a smaller group with Keldon Johnson at the four and Washington at the five in case both Richards and Montgomery are struggling on a given night — to find Kentucky's best strategy in case Travis is unable to return as quickly as hoped.

But if Travis is back in time for postseason play and quickly regains his form, two weeks of extended reps for Richards and Montgomery could be just what Kentucky needs to round both reserves into form for their own NCAA Tournament contributions.

With a little help from all of his friends, Kentucky replaces Reid Travis

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | Feb.23

Turns out, we were all asking the wrong questions. Who would replace Reid Travis for however long his sprained right knee keeps him out of the lineup for fourth-ranked Kentucky? Would it be EJ Montgomery, the McDonald's All-American freshman? Or Nick Richards, the McDonald's All-American sophomore? Or both?

In their first game without Travis, against Auburn on Saturday, the Wildcats delivered a resounding answer: none of the above. And that's exactly what John

Calipari was hoping. Montgomery started and played 23 minutes. Richards came off the bench and played 20 minutes. They were solid, combining for 10 points, 10 rebounds, six blocks and three steals — good enough to win. But Kentucky didn't just win. It romped, 80-53, because it was not just one but instead everyone who took up the slack in Travis' absence.

In one of the more complete and dominant performances of the season, UK led by 33 points with 11 minutes to go against a team it narrowly escaped, 82-80, a little more than a month ago. Travis had 17 points and seven boards in that first meeting. So how did the Wildcats replace that production and waylay the Tigers in the rematch without their most physically imposing player? Auburn coach Bruce Pearl is still trying to figure that one out.

"I thought we legitimately had the chance to come in here and play with them," he said. Instead, "we were physically overwhelmed." But how? His team got back its prized big man, 6-foot-11, 260-pound junior Austin Wiley, who sat out the first meeting with an injury. How could the Cats lose a key post player and the Tigers add one and the margin balloon by 25 points? "I think the biggest thing is John (Calipari) always has great players and great talent, but he has to spend a lot of time getting them to become great teammates and play together as a group," Pearl explained. "You see how they all compete, how they share the ball, and you see how much better they've gotten."

Going into the first meeting, PJ Washington had not yet begun his 10-game tear — it started three days later against Mississippi State — but he punctuated the hot streak on Saturday with 24 points, six rebounds, two assists, a block and a steal. He hit a career-high five 3-pointers (he made five all of last season), including the first three he took. He knew he needed to be just a little bit better even than he has been lately, and he was.

"We were talking about that all week," said Washington. "We knew it was going to be hard to replace (Travis), so we all had to step up and provide something. Nick and EJ did a great job today, and Keldon (Johnson) did a wonderful job rebounding. So we all did a great job collectively."

Washington is averaging 21 points, 7.9 rebounds, a block and a steal per game and shooting 53 percent from beyond the arc over the last 10, thrusting himself ever more into the SEC player of the year race. Pearl said he is "without question" a national player of the year candidate.

And there's Johnson. The 6-foot-6 freshman wing sensed a few rebounds might be available with Travis out, so he went to work. He finished with eight points, a career-high 17 rebounds and five assists in just 29 minutes. He went "screaming" after rebounds, as Calipari put it, from start to finish — nine boards in the first half, eight in the second — and chased down several of them out of his area, winning 50-50 balls by sheer force of will.

That's how he ended up with more rebounds on a single afternoon than in his previous three games combined.

"Keldon told on himself today," Calipari said. "If he thinks he's getting two rebounds next game, I'm going to be all over him."

Johnson and Montgomery combined for 24 boards, same as Auburn's total, as Kentucky won the rebounding battle 43-24. Without its second-leading rebounder.

"We knew we had to make up for Reid's loss," Johnson said. "He brings us that toughness, that grit and definitely that rebounding aspect of the game. So we knew we had to hit the glass extra hard. As soon as we knew he was going to be out (possibly until the SEC tournament), we knew we had to make it up as a collective unit, not just one person."

To that end, Tyler Herro poured in 17 points and hit three 3-pointers, and fellow freshman Ashton Hagans had his best-shooting day as a Wildcat, sinking 6 of 8 from the field (including two treys) for 14 points to go with five assists. Kentucky (23-4, 12-2 SEC) moved into a three-way tie atop the SEC, alongside LSU and Tennessee — after the Tigers took out the Volunteers in overtime on Saturday — by shooting 54.5 percent from the field, hitting 11 3-pointers and holding Auburn to 32.8 percent shooting. For the fifth time this season, the Wildcats' increasingly suffocating defense held an opponent to a season-low point total.

Kentucky won for the 13th time in 14 games even without Travis, who looked for much of the season like its glue guy. The graduate transfer from Stanford had been the calming influence in huddles and a steadying force (emphasis on the word "force") in the paint for the last four months, so it was reasonable to wonder whether these Cats might stumble with him in street clothes on Saturday.

The entire team made a point of walking over to hug and speak to Travis just before tipoff against the Tigers.

"We just told him we got him, we're here for him," Johnson said, "and he just told us to go out there and take care of business."

They complied. Of his physical replacements on the court, Montgomery had the better day, continuing a steep upward trend for the former top-10 recruit: six points, seven rebounds, three blocks and two steals. Richards, per usual, provided a couple of tantalizing glimpses along with a couple of head-scratching gaffes.

"We're all in one huddle and I said, 'How many of you here are cheering for Nick and really rooting for him to do well?' Me, everybody, the coaches, we all want him to do well. But we can't do it for him," Calipari said. "You have what you call stinkin' thinkin'. You have to just loosen up your mind and go play and that means with energy. (But) he's not blaming anybody. He doesn't say, 'The coach takes me out every time I make a mistake.' He knows he's got to get this."

Which we've heard a few dozen times before, same as this: "At some point," Calipari said, "the light bulb is going to go off and we're going to see a monster."

Maybe, maybe not. But, contrary to what Kentucky's coach keeps insisting — that Richards is the key to a national championship run — it might not even matter if that eureka moment is delayed until next season. Because, as it turns out, these Cats might not need Richards and/or Montgomery to fill the void while Travis sits out, or to provide anything extraordinary after he comes back.

"They all understand we're going to have to do this together," Caliparis said, "and I think they all came together and did it."

There are four regular-season games left, perhaps all without Travis: home against Arkansas and Florida with trips to Tennessee and Ole Miss in between. The rematch in Knoxville will be difficult without Travis bulldozing Grant Williams and Co., but his absence seems to have had a unifying effect on Kentucky, so who knows? And if the Cats can play this well without him, what happens when he comes back

for the postseason?

"We can be special," Washington said. "We just gotta play together. That's the biggest thing for us. Sometimes when we don't play together, teams start to beat up on us a little bit. When we get back together and doing what we do, there's not a lot of teams in the country that can beat us."

PJ Washington continues to prove a Kentucky player can come home again

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb.23

A surprisingly one-sided 80-53 victory over Auburn on Saturday continued PJ Washington's Ken Burns-esque miniseries on the benefits of going against the Kentucky grain.

Rather than be latest in UK's loooong line of one-and-done players, Washington participated in the NBA Draft process last spring and then chose to return for his sophomore season.

Washington's team-high 24 points — his eighth 20-plus performance in the last 11 games — provided further evidence of the wisdom of Washington's decision. A career-high five three-pointers, which matched his total for all of last season, put an exclamation point on that conclusion.

"This is a great lesson …," UK Coach John Calipari said. "His life just changed now because he decided to come back when other kids all left."

Calipari likened Washington's decision to that made by ex-Cat Willie Cauley-Stein. "I'm coming back because I need to come back," the UK coach phrased it.

"The ego of this sometimes forces kids out early. 'If he leaves, I'm leaving."

Washington denied that ego or peer pressure played any part in his decision.

"Nah," he said. "I try to do the best thing for me. And that was coming back. I wasn't thinking of anybody else during the process. At the end of the day, you can't think of anybody else in a process like that. You've got to focus on what you've got going on and do what's best for you and your family."

To borrow from horse racing, Washington broke from the gate early and bolted Kentucky into the lead. He scored 11 of UK's first 13 points. That included three three-point baskets before the first television timeout.

"If he's doing that, keep giving him the rock," point guard Ashton Hagans said, "and let him hoop."

The feedback Washington received in the NBA Draft process included the need to improve his perimeter game. At the NBA Combine, he was often at the top of the key as his team looked for high-low feeds into post players.

Washington took only 21 threes as a freshman. He made five.

"Last year, I wouldn't even shoot threes, honestly," said Washington, who already had four by halftime against Auburn. "Last year, I was just trying to bully people and get easy layups. This year I feel my game is a lot more expanded."

Perhaps this sounded like a touch of irony. Because strongman Reid Travis sprained his right knee at Missouri on Tuesday, Calipari had repeatedly alerted Washington of the need to play a "muscle game" and "roughhouse" opponents.

Calipari went so far as to say Washington could be "begging" for Travis to return ASAP in order to be relieved of this duty.

When reminded of what Calipari had said, Washington offered a diplomatic comment. "I think we need him back," he said of Travis.

Against undersized Auburn, this was less the case.

Washington did not do a lot of posting. "They were kind of denying me the post," he said. "They wouldn't really let me catch the ball. So I guess I was hitting shots today, so I kept shooting them."

Washington made five of eight three-point shots. Overall, UK made 11 threes. That marked only the fourth time this season UK reached double digits from long distance.

Auburn, 18-9 overall and 7-7 in the SEC, made only eight of 27 three-point shots. The Tigers' two leading scorers, guards Bryce Brown and Jared Harper, made a combined five of 18 shots.

Auburn made 32.8 percent of its shots. That nearly matched the season low of 32.7-percent accuracy against Ole Miss.

Kentucky, which improved to 23-4 overall and 12-2 in the SEC, dominated the basket area. UK outrebounded Auburn 43-24.

Kentucky also moved into a first-place tie in the SEC with Tennessee and LSU. This served as further, if unneeded, validation of Washington's decision to return for a sophomore season.

"Yeah, I feel it was the best choice for me," he said. "I said that from day one, and I stand by it now. I try to make the most of it every day, try to get better at something every day. If it's not basketball, it's school work or something like that.

"I changed my mindset. I changed everything."

Auburn Coach Bruce Pearl suggested Washington had positioned himself to be a candidate for national player of the year. "Without question," Pearl said.

Washington did not back away from this suggestion.

"Just keep doing what I'm doing," he said. "Stay in the gym and keep working with coach Kenny Payne. Just building my confidence and get better every day."

'They're going to have to guard me': Hagans now daring opponents to let him shoot it

By: Ben Roberts | Lexington Herald-Leader | Feb.23

After one of his long jumpers fell through the basket, Ashton Hagans ran back on defense and flashed his go-to celebration for such shots: an air guitar with three fingers extended.

There was only one problem.

"You know that was a two?" UK assistant coach Joel Justus told him.

Hagans laughed about it after the Wildcats' 80-53 victory over Auburn at Rupp Arena on Saturday afternoon. He acknowledged that he's developed a bit of a habit of hitting long-range shots with one toe on the three-point line — something that happened again against the Tigers.

The difference between two points and three won't much matter to this Kentucky team if Hagans can keep it up from outside. That type of shooting — toe on the line or not — makes these Cats even more dangerous. And that's why John Calipari hasn't said a word about the long twos.

"He's told me if I have an open shot, just shoot it," Hagans said.

The freshman point guard was 2-for-4 from three-point range Saturday and added a couple of more long jumpers to his tally, scoring 14 points, his highest total since a season-high 23 more than a month ago against Georgia. Earlier this week, Hagans was 2-for-4 from deep against Mis-

souri, finishing with 12 points and reaching double digits for the first time in seven games. Before that, he'd never made more than one three-pointer in a college game.

In fact, over those first 25 games, Hagans was 5-for-27 from long range. Over the last two games, he's 4-for-8 with a few more long jumpers.

"I'm not worrying about whether it's a three ball or a two. Just, if it goes in, that's helping the team out more," Hagans said. "They're going to have to guard me, so I can either blow by and try to find somebody a shot or get to the rim. For me hitting the big-time shots, it just opens the lane more. And it's just going to make us a better team."

Hagans' improvement as a player throughout the course of this season has arguably been as impressive as any Wildcat on the roster. He emerged midway through the non-conference schedule as an elite defender. By the beginning of league play, he had harnessed his offensive ability to become a serious blow-by threat from the perimeter. Now, he's making outside shots.

That evolution hasn't come by accident.

"I'm in the gym way more than I was at the beginning of the year, working on my shot," he said. "That's just what I need to do to become a better shooter and become a better basketball player and also to help this team as the season goes along. The guys are on me hard, 'Stay in the gym. Stay in the gym.' If I'm slacking, they're on me. And that's why I love this team so much. They're not letting nobody get away with no freebies. And I'm just trying to get better."

Getting better means getting more confident, says his coach.

"He's been working. He's been in the gym at night. He's staying after practice. He's not a bad shooter," Calipari said. "But confidence, you have to build it yourself, and the only way you do that is get in the gym and build your confidence and then — you ready? — got to make a couple in the game."

Before these last two games, opponents were more than willing to give Hagans those outside shots. At times, defenders would just stare at a wide-open Hagans standing on the perimeter with the ball, daring him to put it up. And, some of those times, he wouldn't even attempt the outside shot, choosing instead to pass it around or reset the offense.

"I'm just more confident than I was a month or two ago," he said. "A lot of people say I can't shoot, but I don't really worry about that. The coaching staff keeps telling me I got a good shot, so just keep shooting when I got the opportunity. And that's what I'm trying to do to help this team be at another level and help me be at another level."

Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl noted after Saturday's game that he recruited Hagans for years. He said the UK freshman didn't come to college as a three-point threat because he never really needed the skill. Not only was he an unselfish player in high school, but — when he wanted to score — he could just drive by whoever tried to stand between him and the basket.

Now, he's seeing a different caliber of opponents on a regular basis. He's learning how to deal with that. As he learns, he gets more comfortable. And as he gets more comfortable, UK's offense gets harder to stop.

"He knows teams are going to go double in the post on PJ (Washington) and he knows where he needs to go, and he's not even thinking twice about shooting it," Pearl said. "Ashton is such an unselfish player and always has been. He's always gotten off more at empowering his teammates and giving his teammates points, and he's always been able to go by anyone and finish at the rim. He never really had that work on his three-point game much. And, now, here he's bringing all that stuff, because they're coming off of him. Why would you be surprised? He has just worked on it and he needs to go and make open shots, and he is.

"Like he does everything else, he does it with confidence."

Herro's Confidence on Full Display in Comeback

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | Feb.26

Tyler Herro gave amateur lip readers everywhere plenty to discuss.

Late in Kentucky's comeback win over Arkansas, Herro stepped to the line to shoot a pair of crucial free throws. Knowing Herro could up UK's lead to three with just five seconds to go, Arkansas' Mason Jones figured he'd take a pass at convincing Herro to hook him up with a miss.

Herro wasn't interested and let Jones know it, SEC Network cameras catching it all. It wasn't until after the game that Herro settled the debate over what exactly he had said.

"I'm a bucket."

In reality, it didn't matter much what Herro said. The confidence that prompted it was everything.

"That's Tyler Herro for you," Nick Richards said. "That's all I gotta say."

That was on display from start to finish. At the start, Herro kept No. 4/4 Kentucky (24-4, 13-2 SEC) afloat as the Cats played like they were ready for bed at the 9 p.m. tipoff and Arkansas (14-14, 5-10 SEC) built a big early lead. At the finish, Herro was electric as UK erased a 15-point second-half deficit in a 70-66 victory.

"He made baskets when things broke down," John Calipari said.

Herro wasn't perfect Tuesday night at Rupp Arena, but he was about as close as you're going to get on a basketball court. In scoring a career-high 29 points, Herro made 9-of-10 field goals – including 5-of-6 3-pointers – and a perfect 6 of 6 from the line. That included both those made free throws in the final seconds.

"I just feel like it's going to go in every time I shoot a free throw," Herro said.

His teammates agree.

"Put it like this," said Richards, who had seven points, 15 rebounds and three blocks. "Sometimes Coach tells us to box out when Tyler's at the line. Sometimes I don't. I just feel like it's going to go in, so I just walk back the other way."

The feeling's not limited to players with Kentucky across their chests. In fact, probably aware that Herro is shooting 93.2 percent from the line on the season and has made 52 of his last 53 from the stripe, the player who prompted the "I'm a bucket" retort even admitted to assuming the shots were going in.

"He said he knew I was going to make them," Herro said.

Of course, Coach Cal was able to find a wart or two in Herro's game. His defense in the first half left something to be desired as Isaiah Joe exploded for three 3s in the first seven minutes and 16 points before halftime.

"Well, you do know he gave up like 25 points today," Calipari said. "In 3s. He gave up like the first 11. … I walked out, I said, 'We can't win if you're getting scored on every time.' "

Herro and the Cats picked it up in the

second half, allowing the Razorbacks to hit just one 3 over the final 13 minutes and forcing them into 31-percent second-half shooting.

"We're so close as a unit," Herro said. "We always just have fight in us and as a group we came together in the second half. Everybody made plays for each other and played defense."

Along those same lines, Herro stepped up on offense with Arkansas focusing its defense on PJ Washington. The strategy was understandable, considering Washington had scored 20-plus points in eight of his last 10 games, and reasonably effective, as the Razorbacks held him to nine points and built a lead. It's just that Herro and the Cats were able to overcome it to win for the 14th time in 15 tries.

"That's the good thing about us," Herro said. "Whenever someone—like PJ, they were shutting him down or trying to make someone else beat them. I think we have enough weapons to do that."

Herro was the biggest weapon of them all, scoring 17 points after halftime in spite of tweaking his Achilles tendon on the final play of the first half. He briefly thought he might not play after halftime, but instead was on the floor for 19 minutes and didn't miss a shot.

"I wouldn't say it's the best of him," Richards said. "I would probably say that it's something that's going to be developing in the future."

You might think something happened to make Herro extra confident heading into Tuesday's game, but you'd be wrong. That swagger that led him to basically guarantee those free throws would fall? It's always there.

"I feel the same way going into every game," Herro said. "My shots were just falling tonight."

Kentucky's kids do a little growing in a tight win at Ole Miss

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | March 6

OXFORD, Miss. — Wait, is John Calipari out here quoting scripture now? Sure sounded like it on Tuesday night after his team narrowly avoided a second consecutive road loss, beating Ole Miss, 80-76, in what was the Wildcats' fourth straight game without injured senior Reid Travis. Just like Saturday in Knoxville, Kentucky also lost sophomore star PJ Washington for a large chunk of the first half because of foul trouble, leaving Calipari with four or five freshmen on the floor at all times. So it's not terribly surprising that a devout Catholic coach would seek wisdom from a higher power and recite (well, paraphrase) a famous bible verse about maturity.

See, his two mercurial freshman wings, Tyler Herro and Keldon Johnson, had torpedoed the team at Tennessee, combining for just 13 points on 4-of-20 shooting in a selfish display of let-me-get-mine that incurred the explosive wrath of their earthly higher power, Calipari, who unleashed a profane (ear muffs, Man Upstairs) tirade after Herro made a classic rookie mistake: He talked back in the huddle after blatantly ignoring his coach's orders on the court.

"One of them apologized for something that was said and the other one apologized for not playing better. I said, 'I'm not worried about you apologizing for play. It's your attitude,' " Calipari said. And here comes the scripture. "Everybody has to grow up. And I said to them, 'When you're a child, you act like a child. When you're a man, you leave all those childish things behind.' "

Well, actually, the Apostle Paul said that in his letter to the church at Corinth around 53 AD, in the now-famous verse, 1 Corinthians 13:11. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Calipari added a challenge to Herro and Johnson at the end: "Now you're either a man or you're a child. How do you respond?"

They responded like a couple of full-grown men against the Rebels, a likely NCAA Tournament team that also took Tennessee to the wire in Oxford a week earlier. When Washington picked up his second foul seven minutes in and went to the bench (scoreless) until intermission, Herro and Johnson carried the Cats. They combined for 27 points on 12-of-18 shooting to get Kentucky to halftime down by just a point. Notably, they'd only attempted one 3-pointer apiece at that point — they were 1-of-10 beyond the arc in Knoxville — this time obeying Calipari's commandment to drive, drive, drive. They unleashed a hailstorm or runners, floaters and hanging bank shots for and-ones (in Johnson's case).

"Those two young wings are fabulous," Ole Miss coach Kermit Davis said afterward. But what specifically impressed him? "God, their strength for their age. Their physicalness. And they're both downhill players. If those guys can have that kind of impact on the game …"

That very big if is the reason Calipari is now quoting scripture. He needs them have that kind of impact every night. Immaturity leads to inconsistency, and inconsistency gets you beat in the NCAA Tournament. Johnson, Kentucky's only projected lottery pick, had been mired in a miserable slump, averaging 8.3 points and shooting 29.7 percent from the field in the previous four games. Before dropping 22 points, seven rebounds and three assists on the Rebels, he'd gone nearly two months between his fifth and sixth 20-point games of the season. Herro had followed up the best game of his career — 29 points on 9-of-10 shooting, plus a viral video moment when he told an Arkansas player, "I'm a bucket" as he sank two late free throws — by laying an egg in Knoxville. He responded on Tuesday with 20 points on 8-of-12 shooting, with five rebounds, three steals, two assists and no turnovers.

Johnson and Herro possess nuclear capabilities that are among the biggest reasons why sixth-ranked Kentucky (25-5, 14-3 SEC) is absolutely good enough to win a national championship. Herro scored in double figures in nine of 10 road games — it's no small thing that the Cats went 8-2 in those, by the way — and got 18-plus in five of them. Johnson scored at least 15 points against six ranked opponents. But their inconsistency is scary, the kind of thing that sends an elite team home early in the postseason.

Calipari is not unsympathetic to the pressure his freshmen face, of course. Everybody's Super Bowl and all that.

"If we lose a game, oh my God, the world ends," the coach said. "And then you also have the clutter about, 'You're the best player; you should take the most shots,' and they're all hearing it. And they've got to deal with all that and they're 19-year-olds. I told them yesterday I respect what these guys deal with, because I couldn't have dealt with it as a 19-year-old. No way. No. And then perform and then play to win and not worry about losing like they did at the end of this game?" Suddenly, the harsh disciplinarian was a proud papa. "They played to win," he said. "I've

got a good group of kids."

His initial point remains, however: Kentucky needs adults now, not children. The Wildcats needed Washington to come back with a vengeance in the second half at Ole Miss, showing off a tweak by Calipari to counter the way teams were trying to deny him the ball and double-team him on the block. He caught it in the high post, faced up, assessed the defense and attacked. "He made all the right plays," Calipari said. Washington scored 13 points after halftime, and when the defense swarmed to him, he found open teammates for four assists. "We couldn't get Washington stopped," Davis admitted afterward, sounding like so many other opposing coaches during Washington's 10-game hot streak that had given way to a two-game cold spell.

"He's a very mature player, and you know what he does? He doesn't try to do things he can't do," Davis said. "He stays right within himself. I've told our young (power forwards) the last couple days, 'That's who you need to watch, because that guy really plays within himself, with a great maturity for only being a sophomore.' "

There's that word again.

It's why the Wildcats need Travis, the graduate transfer from Stanford who is built like a guy wearing a puffy-muscled super hero costume, to return ASAP and resume bullying people in the post and communicating on defense and keeping his composure at all times, which will alleviate some pressure from Washington and set a tone for the others. Calipari said he's operating under the assumption Travis will sit out a fifth straight game on Saturday against Florida — although it's Senior Day and the regular-season finale — unless he's able to get a practice or two in before then. In that case, "maybe shove him in a little bit to let him get his feet underneath him and see how he does," Calipari said. "Maybe not. But I'm not afraid to not play him. This is about his health." Frankly, Travis is so plainly important to this young team's ability to make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, the Wildcats should consider keeping him in bubble wrap until then.

"It's just different playing without Reid," Johnson said. "We've been playing with him all season, so it's just different for everybody."

But every game that Travis misses is another opportunity for Johnson and Herro — and freshman point guard Ashton Hagans, who lately has looked lost running the offense and whose defense has regressed to the point of significant concern (see Ole Miss guards Breein Tyree and Terence Davis combining for 46 points) — to put away childish things and grow up. As well as Herro played on Tuesday, he gambled on a steal in the final seconds with Kentucky trying to protect a five-point lead, and it led to a Davis 3-pointer that made the Wildcats sweat.

"That's a high school move," Calipari said, and he isn't having any of that. Freshmen or not, 30 games into a college career, they're old enough to know better now. "If we're asking you to do something and you don't do it, you're going to hear about it. We're going to hold you accountable. Also going to tell you how much we love you, how proud we are of you and all of that stuff, but we're going to hold you accountable. And that's why I said you've got to grow up coming here."

There are Senior Days, and then there is the special one a Kentucky manager and his family will celebrate

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | March 8

The first time Randy Gregory's parents saw him on television during a Kentucky basketball game, they were so overcome with emotion that neither had adequate words to express them. So his mother didn't speak and his father didn't use the keyboard he controls with his eyes to type. They just sat with a flood of feelings, the joy and pride for their son, the hurt and forgiveness in their own relationship, taking stock of the hard lives that led to this precious moment, and they wept together.

"That was just surreal," Nina says, including the part where she abruptly pivoted from her role as doting parent to that of primary caregiver for her ex-husband, when she lovingly suctioned his airway to keep him from choking on his own tears. "Nina is a lifesaver and a blessing from God," Randy's father wrote The Athletic in an email he composed with the help of software developed for people who suffer as he has for almost eight years with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gerhig's disease). "I am forever grateful for Nina's kindness."

Because of that kindness, Randy Gregory Jr. will be there on Saturday at Rupp Arena to see Randy Gregory III honored in a Senior Day ceremony before the final home game of his four-year career as a student manager. Nina helped arrange and pay for healthcare professionals to accompany the father in a special van from Baltimore to Lexington. For most in attendance, Saturday will be about bidding farewell to star forward Reid Travis (and seeing whether he returns from a knee injury to play against Florida). But for those who know the Gregory story — of a father lost and found and now slowly slipping away again, of an immigrant mother with immeasurable strength and unfathomable grace, of a beloved student manager who has become like a brother to future NBA players and a son to Kentucky's coaching staff — this is very much Randy III's day too.

Like the first time they caught a glimpse of him on the Wildcats' bench, just a few feet away from Hall of Fame coach John Calipari, his parents are prepared to sob together again.

"I'm grateful beyond words," Nina says. "When I left Randy at the dorms as a freshman, I think I cried all the way from Kentucky to Baltimore. I was so afraid. It was such a tough time for us and I didn't know how things were going to work out, but I needed Randy to stay focused and do his work and keep going. To know that the coaches and the team just took him in and embraced him, I am forever grateful to those men who helped mold and shape Randy into the young man that he is. It has been the best thing that ever happened to him — and to us as a family."

Even for a man with an incurable disease, which has confined him to a wheelchair and trapped a healthy mind inside a motionless body, there is healing power in seeing his son chase down a shared dream. Randy Jr. started out officiating games in the Baltimore projects, then coached rec-league hoops, and when he was diagnosed with ALS in 2011, he was an assistant for a community college team. Randy III, having grown up on the game, was a good enough high school guard that he could've kept playing in college at the Division II or Division III level, higher maybe if he wasn't 5-foot-8. But he wanted to become a coach, like his pops, and he figured hanging

around the winningest program in college basketball history for four years might jump-start that plan.

His AAU coach was Tim Miller, uncle to Arizona coach Sean Miller and Indiana coach Archie Miller and a longtime family friend of Calipari. Miller put in a good word, and Gregory got fast-tracked into the student manager program at Kentucky. Another Baltimore connection helped: Family friend Kurk Lee had played professionally with UK assistant Kenny Payne and asked him to look out for the kid.

"Say no more," Payne told Lee. So when Gregory got to campus and went to Payne's office to introduce himself, the coach cut him off. "I know who you are," he said. "Let me know if you need anything." In that case, Gregory had a request: "Any time you're in the gym, KP, can you send me a text? Doesn't matter what time. I'm here to work." Payne texted that night. Gregory walked into Kentucky's practice gym and found Charles Matthews, who is now a star at Michigan, and Jamal Murray, who is now a star in the NBA. "This is Randy," Payne told them. "This is family."

Five or six times a year, Gregory's father uses his eye-tracker to scan for and type out the letters that spell "thank you" and sends that message to Payne. He needs a shortcut for the phrase, considering how often he uses it these days with Nina too, but we'll get to that.

"Just knowing the dynamics of what they've been through, what his father has been through and his mother has endured and what Randy has taken on to be an example for his family, to be the person that is carrying the torch of positivity, to show them that something good can happen for this family, we have an obligation as adults to help young people like him shine," Payne says. "I love Randy Gregory just like I love Keldon Johnson and Tyler Herro. Just because he's not on the floor with a jersey on doesn't mean he's not part of our team. Every day that he's been in this program for four years, he's been on my hip, doing workouts with me, learning how we teach, watching film with me. His work ethic is unbelievable, his loyalty to our players and our staff is second to none, so the least that I can do is go to all-out war to help that kid become a success story."

An hour and a half before sinking his first seven shots on the way to 20 points in a win at Ole Miss on Tuesday night, Herro is getting an earful from Gregory. They're working their way around the 3-point arc, one corner to the other, in a series of shooting drills that simulate game action. Gregory puts a hand in Herro's face and sometimes a little smack talk in his ear — because opposing fans and players both seem to enjoy taunting the brash freshman guard from Wisconsin. "You a long way from Milwaukee," Gregory tells him. "All day," Herro fires back as he swishes a long jumper over Gregory. They both laugh.

"He's like a big brother away from home," Herro says. "I look up to him, and he helps me out a lot. He pushes me every day in workouts, and we watch film together. He puts his time and effort into everything and doesn't shortcut anything. We've been watching film at 1 a.m. and been in the gym at 2 a.m., so I think he truly loves the game. And I think everyone on the team looks at Randy and can say he's pretty much a part of this team."

The only difference is the players don't wash their uniforms. Randy does. The players don't load their equipment onto the team bus. Randy does. The players don't grab their own rebounds during workouts. Randy does.

"One day you're picking up Gatorade from Sam's Club and cleaning up the locker room and the next day you could be on the scout team," says head equipment manager Mark Evans, who started as a student manager at Kentucky and now oversees anywhere from six to 14 of them every year. "Sometimes people think this is something it's not. It's not all the glitz and glam and the free gear and sitting on the bench that people see. There's a lot of blood, sweat and tears that go into this thing. My students are the first ones here and the last ones to leave. Everyone sees them on TV in March, but no one sees us on Saturdays and Sundays in October getting in at 7 a.m. and leaving at 8 p.m. Kids who do this, you don't get to be a normal college student."

The flip side, of course, is that normal college students don't get to become good friends with 10 NBA draft picks (and counting). Gregory, who is skilled enough to occasionally step into practices and imitate opposing point guards, cherishes memories of late-night sessions against the similarly sized Tyler Ulis. He swears he once shook Isaiah Briscoe, who now plays for the Orlando Magic, with a killer crossover. "Some wonderful memories in that gym," Gregory says. Malik Monk and Bam Adebayo have stayed in touch even after becoming lottery picks two years ago. Hamidou Diallo invited Gregory to tag along at the NBA Draft last summer. These friendships were forged out of respect.

"If Kenny Payne was there, Randy would be right there," recalls Briscoe, who denies ever being shook by Gregory, just as Gregory predicted he would. "I look at him as a little brother. I love him to death. Whatever he has coming for him, I hope it's great, because he definitely deserves it. He definitely worked for it. He just wants to be around basketball and help kids get better. Even now, when he goes back home to Baltimore, he's in the gym working kids out. And he's learning from Kenny Payne, so how much better does it get?"

Well, ending his career with a Final Four appearance would be nice. Gregory has been on the bench with teams that lost in the second round, the Sweet 16 and the Elite Eight. These Wildcats enter the regular-season finale with 25 wins, ranked sixth and still in the hunt for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Win or lose, he'll graduate in May and plans to go pro just like so many of his buddies. He'll become a graduate assistant coach at the college level or try to break into the NBA by working in basketball operations or as a video intern, an area in which he's earned experience this year by helping UK video coordinator Tim Asher.

"It's a lot of people that are extremely proud of me," Gregory says. "Everything I've gotten to see and do, especially being a kid from Baltimore, it's surreal, man. You couldn't imagine it. Coming from that area and knowing everything that happens in that area, what's supposed to happen to young kids like me, being here and experiencing this is unreal to them. My biggest goal in life is to be somebody who inspires and impacts kids to show them you can do it another way. Very few are going to make it playing basketball. Very few are going to make it playing football. But you can just find something you love and grind at that and, you know, maybe you can make something of yourself."

There were days, though, that Gregory thought about quitting on this dream. His father was getting worse, and his mother was struggling to pay the bills. There was also the unthinkably awkward living ar-

rangement. His parents, who met when Nina moved from the Bahamas to the United States for college in 1990, got divorced in 2014. His father remarried and moved to California, his disease having progressed slowly enough that he could still walk and talk at that point. Back in Baltimore, the rest of the family felt his absence.

"After Randy's dad left, unfortunately we had a Christmas without much food or many gifts under the tree," Nina says. "I think that kind of left a mark on Randy to where he never wanted that to happen again in his life or ours." Randy remembers a time when he had to share $5 worth of McDonald's value-menu items with his mom and little sister every night for dinner: two-for-one apple pies, a double cheeseburger, a chicken sandwich and a sweet tea split three ways. "My mom was just a hustler. She always found ways to make it work," he says. "I think that's why my relationship with her is actually stronger than my relationship with my father. Because there were some nights I listened to my mom crying and thought, 'How can she do all this on her own?' "

It only got harder in 2016, when his father, no longer able to speak or walk, reached out to Nina and asked if he could come home. He wanted to be closer to family and friends and required around-the-clock care, but his new wife wasn't interested in moving to Baltimore or dealing with the burden of his medical needs. So Nina did a remarkable thing: Without hesitation, she said yes. She moved her ex-husband into her home — along with his sister and her husband — and hired professional caregivers even as she wondered how in the world she would pay for them.

"Everybody is still shocked at me for that," she says. "A lot of people didn't understand that two people who divorced and moved on could still be friends, but you really can. It's a lot of forgiveness. And, you know, nobody deserves to have ALS. It's the hardest disease I have seen to this date, because you're wide awake but everything else is gone. So he needed help and, truth be told, no other family member opened their doors. I never will be able to understand that for the rest of my life. He helped so many people, helped so many kids as a former basketball coach, and in his hour of need, no one said, 'Come live with me,' except me."

Randy was doing his part at school, having earned an academic scholarship and enough from an endowment in the name of longtime Kentucky equipment manager Bill Keightley, Mr. Wildcat, to cover room and board. But that did not feel like enough considering his mother's monumental sacrifice.

"Up here, you live so good. Just look around, it's like heaven compared to back home," he says while sitting inside Kentucky's palatial new players' lounge at the practice facility. "So many times my first two years here, I thought, 'Man, shouldn't I be there? Shouldn't I just go back home and start working two jobs so I can help pay for the caregivers?' "

Both of his parents gave a resounding answer to those questions: absolutely not.

"We already got to live our lives," Nina says. "We went to college, we had that amazing experience, and we needed him to have his and not worry about us." His father, by email, adds: "I told Randy that his education is more important than him leaving school to take care of me. God is taking care of me!" Well, God and Nina, who might be a saint. "If it was not for her, I have no idea what my living situation would be like," he writes. "Her willingness to take me in and care for me has allowed me to see more of my family and friends," which he says has given him the greatest gift of all as his health deteriorates toward an inevitable reality. "I am more at peace."

For all the hardship, Nina also got something precious when her ex-husband returned.

"It's almost as if he came back to us a different person," she says. "I can see when he looks at me, when I have to help him in certain situations, he is thinking, 'You are truly my friend, Nina.' That's what I see in his eyes." Those eyes often scan for two words that he wants the computer to say to her on his behalf. "I've never heard Randy say 'thank you' so many times in the 28 years that I've known him as I hear him say it now. I think he's full of gratitude. Anything you do for him, he says, 'thank you.'"

On Saturday at Rupp Arena, their son plans to say that to both of his parents. He harbors no ill will toward his father, who introduced him to this great game, and he would not have this moment if not for his mother.

"She never called me — never — and said, 'I think I need you to come back. I can't take this,' even though I know she felt that sometimes," Randy III says. "She's been there so I could be here. I love her for that. I love her."

Nina made it possible for Randy III to live out Randy Jr.'s dreams, and if you look closely on Saturday, you'll see on the father's face what that means. He can still wink — right eye means yes, left eye no — and he can still cry. He can just barely still crack a smile too.

"That's how I know that's still my man," his son says. "If you look at him, you see the outside and how he's just dying down, but if you say a little joke or tell him a little story, when I tell him what happened today at practice or whatever, you see a little smile and I say, 'Yeah, that's still my dude right there. He's still the same guy inside.' "

But is he? This disease has changed more than his body. It has softened his heart. He is a tender man, a contemplative soul inside an uncooperative body, holding on for dear life in an unwinnable fight for just a little more time to see that everyone is going to be OK.

"When you're a coach and this is something you've always wanted to do and be, and you get cut short, I think seeing his son take that and run with it just does something for him," says Nina.

"For a dude that coached community college basketball and always loved the game to be here, at the Mecca, and meet these type of players, meet these type of coaches, I know that's huge for him," Randy III says. "That will be one more crazy experience for him, seeing all this, seeing where I work. He'll love that."

There will be tears again on Saturday, when the name that father and son share is announced to a crowd of some 23,000 at Rupp Arena. And one more thing. Randy Gregory Jr. will summon all his strength to curl the corners of his mouth into the slightest of smiles, which will communicate the only message Randy Gregory III ever wanted to hear from his old man: I'm still here.

Cats Well Aware of What Lies Ahead

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | March 9

This week is spring break at the University of Kentucky. John Calipari, realizing UK would have six days before its first SEC

Tournament game, tried to give his team a vacation.

The Wildcats, believe it or not, passed on the opportunity to go home for a couple days.

"Problem is Reid (Travis) didn't want to do it, PJ (Washington) didn't want to do it, Tyler (Herro) didn't want to do it," Calipari said. "They didn't want to go back. They said, give us off, and if we want to do work with the individual coaches, we'll do it."

While their classmates work on their tans, the Cats will be doing what they always do even though they'll still have a couple days away from practice: working on their games.

"We want to work out," Herro said. "Obviously he gave us two days off. We're just working out and staying on top of it. We know what's in front of us – the NCAA Tournament and the SEC Tournament. We just felt like it was best to stay here."

Though their overall approach has been consistently outstanding from the beginning, that's not to say the Cats haven't had an occasional in-game lapse. The latest came in the regular-season finale, as Kentucky got an early introduction to March Madness Saturday afternoon. A quality opponent – Florida – playing like its season was on the line in both teams' regular-season finale made sure of that.

"I looked at their roster, their starters, and they start three freshmen," Coach Cal said. "You talk about a young team that (Florida head coach Mike White has) done a fabulous job with, but they are an NCAA Tournament team and I told our guys from here on in, that's all you're playing. Every team is an NCAA Tournament team and you can't have lapses like we had in the first half."

The Gators parlayed their early edge in intensity into a lead on the scoreboard at the end of the first half and for much of the first seven minutes of the second. True to form, No. 6 Kentucky (26-5, 15-3 SEC) would eventually match them and seal a 66-57 victory over the Gators (17-14, 9-9 SEC).

"First half, they were just beating us up down low a little bit," Washington said. "They wanted it more than we did. The second half, we came and just fought. I felt like everybody did a good job of that."

The fact that UK responded should come as no surprise. It's what the Cats have always done and it's the same thing that caused them to pass on spring break.

"We feel like we're not done yet," Washington said. "Nobody wants to go home yet. We definitely want to get in the gym and work and get back to where we need to be and focus on the end goal."

The end goal, of course, is to be the last team standing in April. That goal is what UK has always been working toward and now its pursuit begins in earnest.

"(Calipari) just says every game from here on out is going to be a war," Herro said. "It's going to be a battle. Every team is going to play their best against us. We're just going to have come try to play a full game, 40 minutes."

Clearly, the Cats are hearing that from their coach.

"We've got to get some 40-minute, 35-minute games and we haven't had them in the last couple weeks," Calipari said. "Maybe it's because Reid is out. … Now, you stick him in there, and maybe that lapse doesn't happen. So hopefully in the tournament stuff, he'll be ready."

Whether or not Travis is ready, the mandate for UK won't change. It's a good thing the Cats have been laying a foundation for exactly this moment for months.

"You're going to play to your training and the process," Calipari said. "Just understand what we teach every single day, and you move to that versus trying to move to where they are, the opponent. We're just going to stay with that. So no, they will be fine. But again, this thing, when it's one game, none of us know."

Kentucky basketball is winning, but it still needs a healthy Reid Travis

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | March 9

All things considered, it hasn't gone badly.

Kentucky has won four its five games in his absence, the one loss coming on the road against a top-10 team with a revenge motive. And Saturday, Senior Day, the Cats rallied to defeat Florida 66-57 and close out the regular season as the No. 2 seed in next week's SEC Tournament.

Still, UK needs Reid Travis.

"Do you guys know Reid Travis is on our team?," UK Coach John Calipari jokingly poked at the media in his postgame press conference Saturday, and not for the first time. "You guys do know that, right?"

We know, we know. The 6-foot-8 graduate transfer from Stanford by way of Minnesota has been out since he suffered a sprained knee on Feb. 26 at Missouri. At his diagnosis, the time frame for recovery was listed that the power forward would be out for at least two weeks, with an outside chance he could be back for Senior Day.

That didn't happen. Assistant coach Kenny Payne told the media on Friday that Travis was scheduled to start doing some work on a basketball floor, but the actual time stamp on his return was TBD.

There was nothing medically new to report Saturday, other than Travis stood in his sweats as his teammates warmed up, then watched from the bench as Tyler Herro scored 16 points, PJ Washington added 15 and Ashton Hagans and Keldon Johnson chipped in 14 points each as UK ran its record to 26-5 overall and 15-3 in the league heading to Nashville.

"If he plays, I'll be doing backflips," Calipari said Saturday. "If he doesn't play, we'll just figure it out."

What would you give to see the 60-year-old John Calipari doing a backflip?

"I've done backflips," countered Cal, "on a trampoline, maybe."

So far, the Cats have figured it out ways to win without Travis' maturity, consistency and physicality. Not that it has been easy. Oh, the first game sans Travis was a walk-in-the-park 80-53 rout of visiting Auburn. After that, however, Kentucky has trailed at the half in each of its last four games. Urgent revivals were required to pull victories out of the fire.

Down 15 in the second half at home to Arkansas, UK won 70-66. Down 13 at the half at Tennessee, the Cats succumbed to the will of the revenge-minded Vols and lost by 19. Down one at Ole Miss on Tuesday, the Cats prevailed 80-76. Down three early in the second half Saturday, the Cats went on a 15-2 run to take control.

"Defensively, wow," said Florida Coach Mike White, "they're elite."

Even without Travis, the Cats outrebounded the Gators 39-23. They bothered the visitors into missing 15 of their 18 three-point attempts. And they found the foul line. Kentucky made 26 of 32 free throws. Florida made just six of 11.

But a smaller Florida outscored the Cats 32-22 in the paint. And, according to Calipari, there is still something missing.

"We've got to get some 40-minute, 35-minutes games and we haven't had the last couple of weeks," he said. "Maybe it's because Reid is out."

That's a pretty good guess.

"It's scary to think that with their next opponent, they could potentially be even better," White said.

That's the thing. Without Travis, Kentucky is still a formidable foe, be it at Bridgestone Arena this week or wherever the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee sends them the week after. "We'll be in by far the toughest (bracket), you all know that," Calipari half-joked on Saturday.

With a healthy Travis playing at his best, however, this Kentucky team could go a step beyond being merely formidable. When the big boy basketball of the Big Dance comes around, it could be a Final Four team with a chance to cut down the nets in Minneapolis.

You know, Reid Travis' hometown.

On Senior Day, let's take a moment to honor this Kentucky sophomore

By: Kyle Tucker | The Athletic | March 9

Kentucky's star power forward did what one does on Senior Day, the last home game of a college career. He paused for a beat longer than usual to soak in the atmosphere and bask in the adoration at Rupp Arena. He hugged his family a little harder, squeezed his coaches a little tighter, paid a little closer attention to his teammates' faces in the huddle. It will never be this way in this place again, and he wanted to freeze the moment in his mind so he'll never forget just how good it was here.

Never mind that PJ Washington is a sophomore. Doesn't matter that he hasn't declared for the NBA Draft and won't until after the postseason. Saturday's 66-57 win over Florida in the regular-season finale was Washington's last ride at Rupp. He and everyone else know it. So on a day that Kentucky's only scholarship senior, Reid Travis, sat out again with a knee sprain and walk-on senior Jonny David played two minutes, Washington threw himself a silent "Senior Day" celebration of sorts.

"Before the game started, I was just in warmups kind of looking around, just taking everything in," he said. "I told my parents I loved them and thanked them for everything they did for me. I just thanked my coaches, all my teammates. To be a part of something like this is just special. This was my dream school growing up, and just to come here and develop in the two years I've had is just special to me."

Washington went out of his way to say he hasn't made any decisions about his future, but there won't be much of a decision to make. By coming back this season, he went from a late second-round projection last year to flirting with the lottery this year. His father, Paul Sr., has repeatedly told The Athletic that the family's plan has never changed since Paul Jr. arrived as a McDonald's All-American two summers ago: If he's a guaranteed first-round pick, he's gone. So he's gone, but he isn't finished.

With Saturday's win, sixth-ranked Kentucky (26-5, 15-3 SEC) clinched the No. 2 seed in next week's league tournament in Nashville, which means the Wildcats won't play again until Friday night, and players are now officially on spring break from school. Because he wants fresh minds and bodies for the postseason, John Calipari was going to let his team head home to visit their families for a couple of days. But Washington — and then all his teammates — declined that offer.

For one, Washington didn't want to fly to Las Vegas and back for a short visit with his parents, but more notably, "We feel like we're not done yet," he said. "Nobody wants to go home yet. We want to get in the gym and work and get back to where we need to be and just focus on the end goal." Kentucky had to grind out its last three wins — and took an ugly loss at Tennessee — without Travis in the lineup. And it still isn't clear when he'll return. So, sure, it's been a long season, but Washington isn't worried about burnout; there's too much work to be done.

"We're trying to win the whole thing," he said, "so we can rest after that."

Washington might be the most exhausted guy on the team. He has struggled to dominate games as completely as he did when Travis was his tag-team partner in the paint and drew enough attention that opponents couldn't throw the kitchen sink at Washington. Now? Forget the sink, it often looks like he's playing with a refrigerator strapped to his back. But for the second straight game, Washington shook off the swarm and took over the game when it mattered most.

On Tuesday at Ole Miss, he scored all 13 of his points in the second half of a tight game. He scored 11 after intermission against the Gators. With the game tied at 35 and under 16 minutes to go, Washington had just four points and four rebounds. Then, over the next three minutes, he hit a driving layup, sank a post-up jump hook and muscled in an and-one to give Kentucky the lead. Later, he beat the shot clock with a spinning baseline jumper to extend that lead to 10. He finished with 15 points and nine rebounds, the 12th time in 18 SEC games he scored at least 15.

"PJ Washington, really all year, has turned into one of these big-shot guys, timely guys," Florida coach Mike White said, "and they play through him."

He got plenty of help against the Gators, as freshmen Ashton Hagans (14 points), Keldon Johnson (14 points, seven rebounds) and Tyler Herro (16 points, six rebounds) all played well. This also might've been the final home game for a couple of those guys – if not all of them. Johnson, who said he didn't think about that on Saturday, is almost certainly gone after this season as a projected lottery pick. Herro, who had his third hot-shooting game in the last four and has still missed just one free throw since Dec. 22, is trending toward the late first round in recent projections. Hagans should come back, but someone will draft him if he's hell-bent on leaving.

That's the weird thing about Senior Day at Kentucky in the Calipari era: Most of the Cats' best players over the last decade never get a curtain call at Rupp.

"You have a couple, this may be their last game. I kind of mentioned it prior to the game," Calipari said. "I said, 'Guys, this is our last game in this building this year.' Looked around like, 'Our last game in this building,' and I think they understood, whether it's PJ or, you know, we had a bunch of guys in there that are going to have opportunities to do what they choose to do. And that will be the end of it."

For so many one-and-done players here, it really is that sudden and unceremonious. For Washington, who made it cool again to return for a second act at Kentucky, this was a long enough stop to feel like a career, enough time and experience at Rupp Arena for it to become a place that he will miss. A home.

Before Saturday's game, assistant coach Kenny Payne offered some advice: "If PJ decides this is it, reflect back on your career.

What did you learn? How did you learn it? What did you walk out of here with? Because whatever that is, it's going to last you for the rest of your life."

Washington learned how to make free throws when they matter and sink 3-pointers when he's open. He learned to pass as well as he shoots, attack on the bounce when a defense denies him the block. He learned to lead a team. He learned to carry one.

"I couldn't be prouder of a kid," Payne said. "He had a lot of people questioning the way he finished last year – that last game where he played his heart out and missed all of those free throws. (Washington had 18 points and 15 rebounds but missed 12 free throws in a three-point loss to Kansas State in the Sweet 16). From that player to this player we have today, just think about the growth, the maturity, the change of his body, the 3-point shooting. From A to Z, he has had a major impact on this program and on our team."

Best of all, Payne added, "He's not done yet. There's still more in there."

When Sophomore Day was over, Washington grabbed a microphone and addressed the home crowd. He thanked the fans, but it wasn't goodbye: "We can't wait to see you in Nashville." An hour later, as he conducted postgame interviews at Rupp Arena for likely the last time, he admitted it was starting to sink in.

"It was just a great experience to be here these two years," Washington said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world." I've done a lot here, and I've grown a lot here. This place is really special to me."

Joe David coached Mt. Lebanon's playoff win from a Kentucky hotel room

By: Mike White | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | March 11

Joe David didn't want to miss senior day festivities Saturday for his son on the University of Kentucky basketball team. But David also is the coach of the Mt. Lebanon High School boys and didn't want to miss coaching in a state playoff game the same day.

David got to do both. He was at Rupp Arena for his son's special day and then coached the Mt. Lebanon team — from a hotel room.

Thanks to modern technology (FaceTime), a cell phone and a cooperating coaching staff, David was able to watch his team's game on a laptop computer and call offensive plays and change defenses.

"Talk about quite a day," David said.

Indeed. Kentucky coach John Calipari started Jonny David in the Wildcats' home game against Florida. Jonny has played only 37 minutes in his career at Kentucky, so the starting nod was quite a thrill for the former walk-on from Mt. Lebanon who was given a scholarship for his junior and senior years. Not long after Kentucky won, Mt. Lebanon beat Manheim, 67-57, in a PIAA Class 6A game at Peters Township. It was win No. 331 in 18 seasons for Joe David, but this victory was unlike any other.

Joe David said, "I asked [Mt. Lebanon assistant coach] Tyler Bluemling, 'Do you think any coaches have done this before?' He said, 'I think we made basketball history.' "

Joe David knew months ago that Kentucky's senior day was the day of the first round of the PIAA playoffs. But the coach kept it to himself.

"We had to get to the PIAA tourney first," David said.

When Mt. Lebanon beat Fox Chapel in the WPIAL quarterfinals Feb. 23, it clinched a PIAA playoff spot for Mt. Lebanon and got David thinking about a dilemma. But there was no way he was going to miss his son's senior day.

"It's not easy because it's like you have two families," David said. "There's my family and my son. Then sort of your extended family is the team. You put in a lot of time and effort, and you don't want to let the team down. But I think they understood. It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing with my son. It was a tremendous, tremendous day for Jonny. The outpouring of love and support for him at Kentucky was amazing. To have missed that would've been a huge regret for me. To have lost the [PIAA] game would've been a regret, too. But that was one I could live with the rest of my life.

"Jonny was the last one introduced in the starting lineup. It was just awesome. My son started for the University of Kentucky. How could I miss that? If he was the manager of the team, I would've done the same thing. When they're honoring your son, you have to be there."

The Kentucky game started at 2 p.m., and the Mt. Lebanon game was scheduled for 6. David and his wife, Sandi, and their other three children (one daughter and two sons) attended the senior day festivities and were all on the court before the game with Calipari. After the game, Calipari informed the media how Joe David was going to be soon coaching a state playoff game by way of a computer and cell phone.

Calipari commented, "I said to him, 'What are you doing?' He said, 'I couldn't miss this [senior day].'"

Joe David actually had a crazy, original plan on how he would coach. The family was going to drive back to Pittsburgh after the game, and he would coach from the back seat of his car while someone drove.

"But there were bad storms in Kentucky, so we decided to just get a hotel," David said.

So, David got a room at an Embassy Suites in Lexington, Ky., put on his game face and then FaceTime.

A JV player was showing the game to David on video using FaceTime. David had his laptop set up to watch the game. Bluemling was the designated head coach for the game, but David was on his cell phone with assistant coach Jordan Albert, who sat on the bench using an earpiece to communicate with David and listen to his instructions. When David would call for a play or possibly a change in defenses, Albert would relay the information to Bluemling, who would then tell the team on the court.

"Had we lost, it would've been my loss," Joe David said with a laugh. "I told Tyler that he has helped me win a lot of games over the last decade. But I told him that he just helped a little more this time. He did a great job. We think alike."

Jonny David played one minute in Kentucky's game and did not attempt a shot. But he was part of an unforgettable day for himself — and his father.

There was a similar story to this one involving a WPIAL football coach 10 years ago. Bill Morton was Woodland Hills' defensive coordinator but was hospitalized a few days before the WPIAL championship with blood clots. He watched the game on TV from his hospital bed and used his cell phone to relay defensive signals to an assistant coach. Woodland Hills beat Gateway, 10-0.

There is one coincidental twist to the Davids' story. Four years ago, Chartiers

Valley made the PIAA playoffs and coach Tim McConnell asked the PIAA to change his team's first-round game from Saturday to Friday, so that McConnell could attend senior day festivities for his son, T.J., a standout point guard at the University of Arizona. The WPIAL also asked the PIAA to change the day of the game. But the PIAA refused, so McConnell stayed and coached.

Chartiers Valley lost that game, 50-48. The opponent was … Mt. Lebanon. The kid who hit the winning shot with one second left was … Jonny David.

March is Here; So is Kentucky

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | March 12

Ashton Hagans believed his coaches when they told the team the season would go by quickly.

He just didn't understand exactly how quickly.

"They told us at the beginning of the season when we came back from the Bahamas, they told us March will be here in no time," Hagans said. "And it's here. So it's like, 'Dang, is the season really almost over?' "

The season most certainly is not over, but the end of the regular season and the arrival of postseason play naturally prompts some reflection. A couple days without practices – though the Wildcats have still been in the gym during their "off days" – have done the same.

Looking in the mirror, the Cats can't help but feel good.

"I'm definitely proud," Keldon Johnson said. "Proud of me and my teammates. I think we've been through the ups and downs of college basketball. We've been in places where they thought we were the worst team and we've been in places where they thought we were one of the best teams in the nation. We just got out there every day and do what we do. We do what we practice every day."

Kentucky ended the regular season fourth in both polls and a mere game away from an SEC championship. All that team success led to individual accolades, headlined by PJ Washington, Johnson, Tyler Herro and Hagans claiming SEC awards.

Washington, the sophomore who spurned the NBA to lead this team, was named All-SEC First Team by both the Associated Press and the league's coaches. Averaging team highs in points (14.9) and rebounds (7.5), Washington has established himself as one of the best players in the country by taking his game to the next level in SEC play.

"I'm just happy to see that we got some recognition," Washington said. "It's definitely exciting for all of our guys."

That's especially true for Herro and Johnson, the two friends and roommates who split SEC Newcomer of the Year (coaches) and SEC Freshman of the Year (AP) honors. Both were also named to the All-SEC Second Team and SEC All-Freshman Team by league coaches.

"I'm honored to win the award," Herro said. "Me and Keldon kind of split there, so it was cool for that. But I think both of us are deserving of Freshman of the Year."

Hagans, meanwhile, took home SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year and SEC All-Defensive Team honors from league coaches.

"It's a great accomplishment," Hagans said. "That's probably one of the goals that I had coming into the University of Kentucky. Just gotta keep it going from here. We got some big games coming up, a big tournament coming up that we need, so that's really all it is."

The Cats haven't forgotten their true goal. The accolades are nice, but the reason why regular-season success was important is that it positions UK for the postseason. With a No. 1 seed within reach less than a week before Selection Sunday, that's exactly what's happened.

But first, an SEC Tournament championship will be on the line starting when second-seeded UK takes on either No. 7 Ole Miss or No. 10 Alabama at 7 p.m. ET on Friday.

"Obviously, we want to win," Herro said. "We never want to lose any game. But we're building for the last tournament, the NCAA Tournament, so we're just going to keep taking each game at a time and try to improve."

The SEC Tournament could potentially take on added importance this season, as Reid Travis is working his way back from a sprained knee. His five-game absence could end Friday.

"I don't think we'll miss a beat," Johnson said. "I think we'll be fine whenever he comes back."

Whether Travis is in street clothes, coming off the bench for short stretches or starting, Kentucky's approach is going to be the same. March, after all, is here.

"It's go time," Johnson said. "Let's get it done. Let's do what we do. That's what we're here for."

'It's time to grow up.' Calipari challenges freshmen to keep emotions in check

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | March 13

Kentucky fans may recall Keldon Johnson's reaction to being whistled for a foul at Mississippi State last month. It was impossible to miss.

Johnson was at half-court. He turned to the UK bench. His face radiated an anguished expression. His body language decried what he viewed as a basketball injustice. This lasted more than a few seconds.

When asked almost two weeks later about Johnson's reaction, UK associate coach Kenny Payne smiled. The message conveyed?

"How young they really are . . . ," Payne said of this latest freshman-dependent Kentucky team. "If you have talented freshmen, you're going to have to deal with some of these emotional roller-coaster (rides). And how you deal with it is vital."

Too intense a scolding can drain confidence. Too much indulgence lessens the chance for a player to reach his full potential.

"So it's a delicate balance," Payne said. "It's very delicate."

Heading into this week's Southeastern Conference Tournament and the NCAA Tournament after that, UK Coach John Calipari had spoken bluntly about the challenge Johnson and freshmen in general can face in keeping their emotions in check.

After UK beat Florida on Saturday, Calipari said of a conversation with Johnson, "I told him, 'If you're a man, your responses are like a man. When you're a child, you respond to things like a child.'

"And I said, 'It's time to grow up. You've got to be a man.'"

Johnson, who joined teammate and roommate Tyler Herro on the SEC coaches' All-Freshman Team announced Tuesday, got the message.

"Well, if you act like a child, they're going to consider you as a child," he said Tuesday. "So you have the actions of a

child. Reacting to referees' calls like that or exaggerating it is definitely something I try not to do. You've got to grow up and be a man and accept (the call) and move on to the next play. It's over with."

Calipari and PJ Washington, UK's First Team All-SEC player, spoke of the difference they've seen in Johnson lately.

"He's grown a lot," Washington said. "At the beginning of the season, he wasn't that far (along the growth curve). Now, he's a lot further than he was."

Calipari saluted Johnson's growing ability to "self-evaluate," meaning the ability to make in-game corrections in dealing with calls you don't like or other forms of adversity.

"That's the step to changing," Calipari said of the self-evaluation process. "So he's growing up right before our eyes."

An outgoing personality with a recognized ability to trash talk, Johnson said that he noticed an increased ability in self-evaluation by UK's freshmen around Christmas.

"We started realizing that some things just are not acceptable," he said. "We just had to fix those things."

When Calipari spoke of this on his radio show Monday night, listeners could imagine a smile on his face.

"Tyler Herro and even Keldon are learning to self-evaluate, which is what special players do . . . ," the UK coach said. "It's hard to self-evaluate when the flattery is coming at you."

Kentucky is not asking Johnson or other UK freshmen to be stoic on the court. The emotion he brings to basketball benefits Kentucky.

"He's a great player on both ends of the floor," Washington said. "He brings great energy to the game, and we feed off that."

Herro attributed the emotion Johnson brings to games as a reflection of competitive spirit.

"He's just a competitive player," Herro said. "He likes to win. So when you're competitive, you just react."

Johnson has learned "it's a long game," Herro added. "I think he learned that sticking to the course of playing the whole 40 minutes."

After the victory over Florida, Calipari applauded the emotion that Johnson brings to the game. No doubt he also applauded Johnson's growing ability to channel that emotion.

"You know, the kid really cares," Calipari said, "and that's so important. And the kid's trying to do the right stuff. And that's really important."

'I'm blown away with it.' Calipari's success with freshmen impresses friends and foes

By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | March 14

After Kentucky beat Florida last weekend, John Calipari received encouragement from an old adversary turned friend. John Chaney, who as Temple coach was caught on camera threatening to end Calipari's life, called to say he liked how UK played in the second half.

To Chaney's trained eye, the Cats displayed the qualities on offense that make for success in the NCAA Tournament: share the ball, attack the basket, get to the free throw line and rebound.

In essence, Chaney liked seeing Kentucky play with purpose.

"What gets my ire is when I look at games and after a while I will turn games off because I can't see what the coach is planning to do," Chaney said when contacted this week. "What strategy is afoot?"

Chaney did not turn off Kentucky's game against Florida, which Calipari took as a compliment.

"You're playing in a way you can succeed," Calipari said in explaining Chaney's message. Then the UK coach added, "and he's right."

That Calipari is again getting a team largely dependent on freshmen to play this way is nothing new. But with freshmen becoming increasingly a key component of many teams, appreciation for how Kentucky does this again and again grows.

"I'm blown away with it," Ole Miss Coach Kermit Davis Jr., said Wednesday.

Davis, who made a point of mentioning that he wasn't merely trying to butter up a possible Friday opponent, said he was impressed with the toughness freshmen like Ashton Hagans, Keldon Johnson and Tyler Herro displayed when UK won at Ole Miss last week. And the UK freshmen competed well against a veteran backcourt, the Ole Miss coach said.

"That's what I've always admired about Cal," Davis said. "He coaches those young guys. But he coaches his best players the hardest. It doesn't matter what level. A lot of guys can't do that to elite players. But he does it, and they accept it."

Former Auburn Coach Sonny Smith, who now does commentary on radio broadcasts of the Tigers' games, said this might be UK's most cohesive team in the Calipari era.

"I don't see how he does it . . . ," Smith said. "Some of the other (teams) didn't, but this team runs their offense and shares it with one another just like they've been playing together for years. That's one thing he does that I don't know if anybody else could do. Maybe they could take all freshmen that were great players and get them to play together. That might be one of his strongest points.

"I think this team plays together better than any (UK) team I've seen in a long time."

Smith also noted that this rapid consensus building happens at a Kentucky program synonymous with unblinking fan interest. Every dribble by every freshman may be scrutinized.

"Fans that are so into their thing, you have more pressure on you than any freshmen in the country when you go there and play for John Calipari," Smith said. "It's expected. And if you don't shoulder that load, then he takes it off of them.

"I don't know how. But he might be the best in the business."

Despite Kentucky's annual transformation from a collection of high-profile recruits into an effective unit, the process is not without stumbles. Only last week Calipari seemed to show impatience when he said it was time for players to grow up.

The adjustments that freshmen must make in the first season of college basketball apply to Kentucky players. Davis spoke of the "wear and tear" that comes with daily practices. Of course, the games add more of the same.

Florida Coach Mike White pointed out the freshmen's inexperience with the rigors of league play, detailed scouting reports, weight lifting and what he called the "individual negativity" that comes with the advancement to college basketball.

Individual negativity?

"They're used to a certain amount of minutes and a certain amount of numbers and a certain amount of shots," White said with a knowing smile. "It doesn't always translate."

Reid Travis' return has Kentucky basketball's postseason stock rising

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | March 15

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - He did not lead Kentucky in scoring. He was not the player with a double-double. He was not the Wildcat who hit every one of his shots in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals Friday.

But no one in the Kentucky locker room shied away from the idea that the most important development in UK's 73-55 win over Alabama was the return of graduate student forward Reid Travis.

"I kind of had the approach I'm going to go out there and just see how it feels, play in the game, play hard and what happens happens," Travis said." All in all, it was just great to be out there. Once it's taken away from you for a little bit you get a new appreciation for it. Just wanted to come out and have fun."

Travis contributed 8 points, 7 rebounds and 3 blocks to the win, but it was his 23 minutes played that might be the most important number in the box score.

After missing five consecutive games with a right knee sprain, Travis looked close to 100 percent. Sure, he was maybe a step slower than normal in one frantic back-and-forth sequence in the first half, but the same physicality and strength Kentucky fans had come to anticipate from the Stanford graduate transfer was on full display.

"Just the strength in having a guy when it comes time, you have to go get the ball, he can physically get down there and go get it," UK coach John Calipari said. "It was good having him back."

Speaking to reporters for the first time since his Feb. 19 injury at Missouri, Travis said he had no doubts about his eventual return as soon as the results of an MRI revealed no significant damage.

He returned just on the outside of the two-to-three week timetable provided by doctors after the injury. Knowing his return would likely come in the SEC Tournament when Kentucky would be faced with the prospect of playing three games in three days, Travis spent much of his rehab time trying focusing on cardio on the bicycle and underwater treadmill so his stamina would be as strong as possible upon return.

"It's not peak, but it definitely feels good," Travis said. "I feel if I play more games, I'll start to get it. I did such a great job while I was out doing things that could keep my cardio up while taking pressure off of my knee. I did that as much as I could and feel like it paid off." Kentucky was able to avenge its January loss to Alabama in the SEC Tournament opener, but Travis and company know the challenges will likely get tougher as the weekend progresses.

Their chances of passing those tests for a long NCAA Tournament run have certainly increased with him on the court.

"Just his physicality, it's a difference maker," sophomore forward PJ Washington said of Travis. "And for him to be out there blocking shots, it's a difference maker. He runs the floor, blocks shots, rebounds and makes baskets. It's hard to guard. He's a great leader out there for us."

Kentucky basketball will bounce back, it's tough to lose a classic

By: Jon Hale | Courier Journal | March 16

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – It was PJ Washington's postgame words that teammate Reid Travis still remembered as he sat in a gloomy Kentucky locker room: "Pick your head up. We've got a lot of basketball to play."

"I credit his leadership and his maturity for saying that," Travis said, "because it's true."

A pep talk seemed needed, given the watery eyes and dejected faces among the Wildcats. No, Kentucky's season didn't end Saturday afternoon. Yes, the Wildcats are going to be a team no one would relish playing in the NCAA Tournament. That hasn't changed.

It was a tough loss to swallow, though, because Kentucky isn't used to this. Not in this event. Not in this arena.

What did end on Saturday was that run of years where the SEC Tournament has been Kentucky and everyone else.

There was somebody else this time.

Outside of Kentucky blowing an eight-point lead in the final few minutes of Tennessee's 82-78 win, the takeaway in Nashville on Saturday was what Tennessee did, not what Kentucky did not. That was off the court as much as on.

The Vol Nation turned out in massive numbers seldom seen opposite Kentucky in a tournament that Big Blue Nation has long been known to dominate. The fan split might not have been 50-50, but it was close, and that meant something to Tennessee's team, which kept fighting until the end to pull it out.

"You'd be driving in Nashville, and it's just seas of blue everywhere," Vols senior Kyle Alexander said. "In the past, Kentucky can take over arenas. Their fans are really loyal, and credit to them for that. For Tennessee to fill out like they did today and support us … we really appreciate that."

This, ultimately, should be good for Kentucky. Not a good result, of course, but a good experience. The Wildcats should be better for having played this game against this team in a pressure-packed classic that wouldn't have been the same against any other opponent here this week.

LSU earned its wins before the current mess involving its coach. And Auburn, highly rated to start the season, appears to be peaking at the right time after last season's late fade, earning its way into the championship game of the league tournament.

But the best two teams in the SEC right now played Saturday afternoon.

And they're not very fond of one another.

And it absolutely felt like that way, every minute, every shot, every whistle, every roar of a divided crowd that was hanging on every second. This was about a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, sure, but it was about bragging rights between a proud UK fanbase that has long viewed its program as the class of the SEC and a proud UT fanbase that has endured its share of football misery in the past decade and is more than ready to be this good again at something.

This couldn't have been duplicated any other way. It wasn't just a postseason environment. It was better than that, really, against a Vols team that has a shot to make a deep run, same as the Cats.

"I think it will definitely help us," UK's Tyler Herro said. "They're a great team. They're battle tested. Playing them helps get us ready for the NCAA Tournament."

These teams were so familiar with one another, we couldn't expect to learn much new in the rubber match. But we did anyway.

Kentucky had a few players step up at key times who'll be needed in coming weeks, most notably EJ Montgomery and Nick Richards.

Travis looks healthier than could have been realistically expected two games back

from knee injury. He played 28 minutes against Tennessee and reported no issues afterward.

"I felt good. It just took me a little bit," Travis said. "I needed those reps and those minutes to get back into it. These two games were good."

Considering Tennessee was 10 of 21 from 3-point range and UK's Washington played only 20 minutes and sat most of the first half with foul trouble, the Cats were fortunate to have been close at halftime and had multiple players shine in this type of environment.

But with 2:58 to play they led 72-64 and should have won.

That postgame despair could be shed, however, because there is more basketball to play, right?

"I wouldn't say that. It's still pretty tough," Travis said. "… In the moment, we wanted this tournament really bad. We wanted to come out as winners with a championship trophy. It's tough to go out on the losing end of that."

Cats Focused on Task at Hand as Madness Begins

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | March 17

Speculation has run rampant in the Big Blue Nation this week, particularly after Kentucky's run in the SEC Tournament ended.

Would the Wildcats get a one seed or a two? Who would be in their bracket? Where would they be sent for their first- and second-round games? What about a potential regional?

It seems the Cats themselves were the only ones not engaging.

"Even today, looking at brackets, no one was really talking about it until our names got announced and we saw where we were going," Reid Travis said.

That announcement came Sunday evening, as UK gathered as a team at John Calipari's house to watch the Selection Show. Kentucky (27-6) was tabbed the No. 2 seed in the Midwest Regional, where they will open their 58th NCAA Tournament appearance against Abilene Christian (27-6) in Jacksonville, Florida. The game will tip off at 7:10 p.m. ET on CBS.

As soon as the bracket was unveiled, speculation immediately shifted to Kentucky's path to a potential Final Four. The second round would bring a matchup with No. 7 seed Wofford or a rematch with No. 10 Seton Hall, which defeated UK in a December overtime thriller. The three seed in the Midwest is Houston, while No. 1 North Carolina and No. 4 Kansas round out the region's top seeds.

Just as before the tournament, the Cats aren't going to engage. They'll be too busy focusing on Abilene Christian.

"We didn't really look too far," Travis said. "I think that's one thing Coach told us right after the brackets came out, that we're only focused on the first game and go from there kind of just have tunnel vision. Kind of just go in a hole and just really worry about the next game up so for us looking at potential matchups and things like that, we're not really looking too far ahead. But obviously we're excited for this matchup Thursday, excited to get out there and kind of just go from there."

Abilene Christian – also nicknamed the Wildcats – earned the Southland Conference's automatic bid by defeating New Orleans in Saturday's tournament final. Head coach Joe Golding's team is rife with experience and has won six straight games to reach the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament.

"The teams in our little corner of the bracket, one beat us, the other team is the team you knew," Calipari said. "Then, Abilene Christian I don't know much about, but if they are in my guess is that they shoot 3s. Which means if they make 20 we lose in the first round. I mean at this time of the year it's one and done."

Calipari isn't quite right about the volume of 3s Abilene Christian attempts (the Wildcats are 291st in 3-point attempt rate), but this team does shoot 38.8 percent from deep, 16th best in the country. The Wildcats also rank 12th nationally in turnovers forced at 16.5 per game.

"We have to get through Abilene Christian," Calipari said. "That's all I'm worried about right now."

To get through Abilene Christian, Calipari knows the path to take. It's the same one the Cats have taken all season.

"Everybody's going to have an edge," Calipari said. "Everybody's playing for their life and survival. Can a team go back to their training? You can't play up to the tournament. You know why? Because you can do that in 15 minutes. You can't play up to the opponent because you can do that for 15 minutes. You have to play to your training, you play to your conditioning. And that you can do for 40 minutes and if you can play for 40 minutes, you'll have a chance to win every game you play."

Last time out, that's exactly the position the Cats were in. Kentucky led Tennessee by eight with less than three minutes to go before the Volunteers came back to win a thrilling and high-level SEC Tournament semifinal. Unpleasant as that may have been, it was a final lesson before the Big Dance begins.

"It was good for us," Keldon Johnson said. "For the week before the tournament to be an environment like that, playing another great team like we did, to really battle and compete with them like we did, in the atmosphere that we did, was a good learning experience for us."

The Cats need all the learning they can get entering this next stage of the season. PJ Washington is the only player on the roster who has played double-digit minutes in an NCAA Tournament game. That's only adding to the anticipation.

"We're excited," Travis said. "I mean sitting there watching teams go up, hearts were pounding, excited to see where we were going to play but now it's set in stone. Excited to see the scouting report and get ready to prepare for the game."

17 FINAL FOURS

58 NCAA APPEARANCES

8 NCAA TITLES

THE GREATEST TRADITION IN THE HISTORY OF COLLEGE BASKETBALL

26 NCAAT WINS

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE AS OF THE START OF THE 2019 NCAA TOURNAMENT

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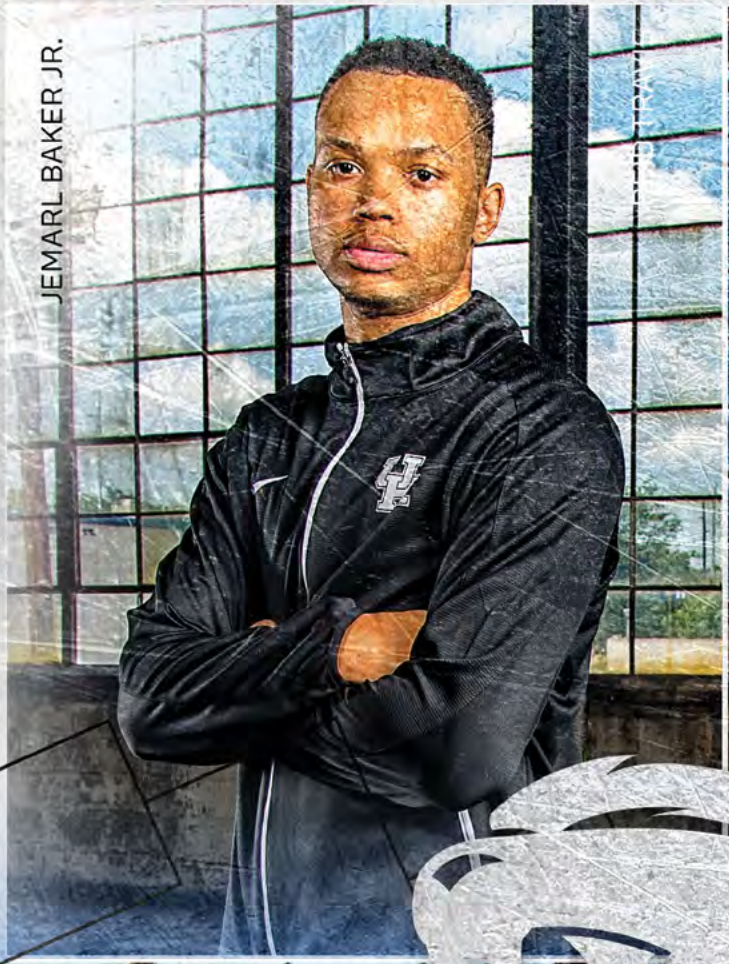
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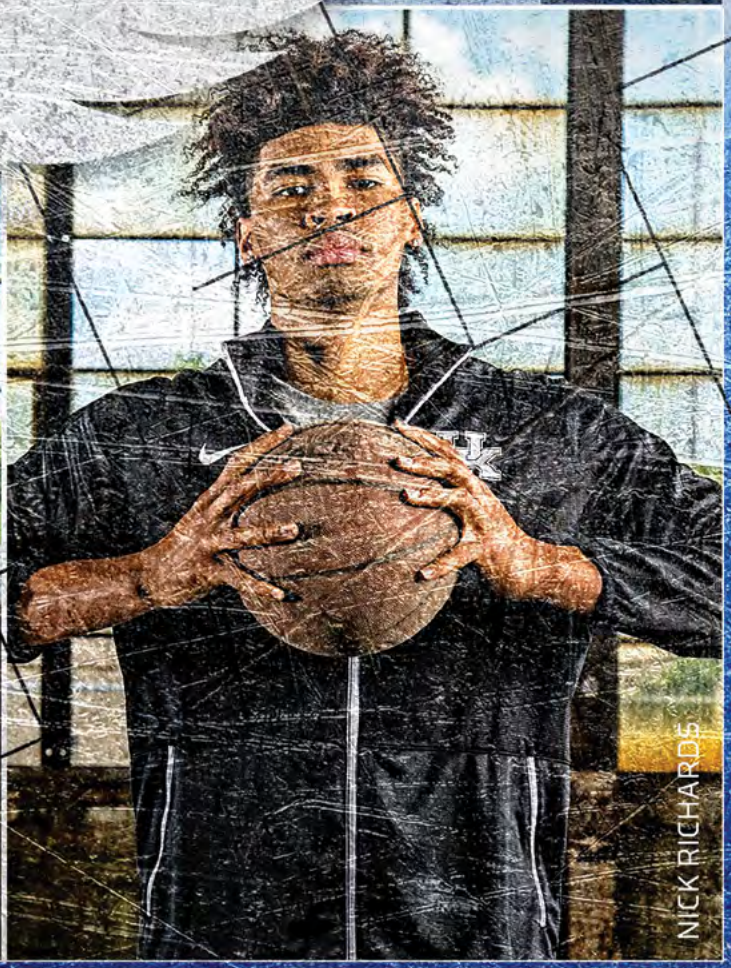
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